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Tamed spirit collection by Olivia Bard,  
01274 360 400, oliviabard.co.uk.  
Turn to p79 for more details.

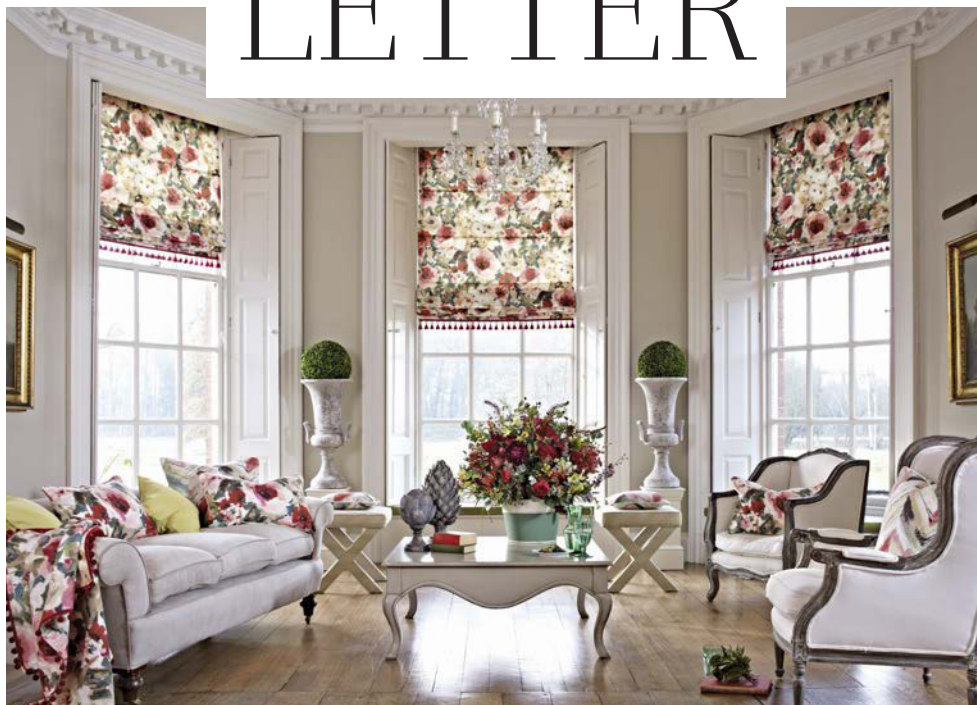
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# EDITOR'S LETTER



## Blooming MARVELLOUS

Bring a light touch to a formal interior with florals – just ensure they work with the room's proportions. I like Prestigious Textiles' Iona collection. **01274 688 448, prestigious.co.uk**



If you're feeling out of step with the world around you, join the club. The first Christmas press releases are trickling into the office as my foxgloves are coming up in the garden and I'm reaching for the sunblock. So get ahead of the game, by prepare for next season yourself and make sure you're happy with your heating before you need it. Our real homes from p30

are sure to inspire you, along with our kitchen special on p105. We're also celebrating the Arts and Crafts movement with a trip to Red House, the masterpiece designed by Philip Webb for his great friend William Morris. If you get the chance to go, do take it.

*Susan Dickerson*

EDITOR

*This month Period Ideas has been enjoying the golden sand of the **NORFOLK COAST**; getting sneak previews of **AW15** collections; admiring the efforts of the **FINE CELL WORK** volunteers; celebrating the new launch of the **MEREWAY** Town and Country kitchen collection and anticipating the new **JAMES BOND** film this November.*

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Pay just £6 for your first three issues of *Period Ideas* with free delivery direct to your door. Classic inspiration for your home and garden all year long.



AUGUST'S ESSENTIAL SHOPPING LIST

# HOME STYLE

*Keep up to date with the latest designs  
and happenings this month*



## TAKE A SEAT

This Ritchie armchair fuses a modern lime green with a classic mid-century design. Thick, foam cushioning provides support and comfort, so you can lounge for hours at a time and the seat will simply bounce back into place. For more information, call **03442 571 888** or visit **made.com**



## NATURE CALLS

If you can't get enough of alfresco living this summer, you'll love this Amelie outdoor dining set from BHS. It's the perfect place to enjoy meals, drinks and socialising with friends. Call **0344 411 6000** or visit **bhs.com** to find out more.



## IN THE SHADE

Channel the rustic elegance of country style in your interiors with the Thorpness metal pendant shade, priced from £15. **0800 323 4050**, **tesco.com/direct**



## SHELF LIFE

Display your pots and pans in Artisan's four-tier metal stand, to bring ornate appeal to a kitchen or conservatory. With uprights made of steel and widely placed lion feet, it is both pretty and practical and costs £121. **0345 259 1410**, **artisan.com**



## BEDDED BLISS

Create a beautiful boudoir with this floral double bedding set, £45, from Next. Featuring a delicate pattern in soft pastel hues, this stunning cover is perfect for a fresh summer bedroom. **0333 777 8000**, **next.co.uk**





## PATTERN PERFECTION

The new fabric collection from Olivia Bard explores the beauty of the natural world and is full of stunning watercolour prints and vibrant botanical themes. Inspired by the English countryside, the Tamed Spirit range is ideal for updating your upholstery and soft furnishings. [oliviabard.co.uk](http://oliviabard.co.uk)

## TICK TOCK

Keep track of the long summer days with this resin wall clock, £20 from Tesco. The muted hue and luxe font will bring an elegant edge to any décor scheme.

0345 602 1073, [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)



## DIARY DATES

Treat yourself to a trip to Agatha Christie's home this month. Owned by the National Trust, Greenway house is surrounded by stunning natural beauty, including a large, romantic woodland. Open seven days a week until November 2015, call **01803 842 382** or visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway) to find out more.



## COLOUR SPLASH

Inject a burst of bold colour into your scheme using this Wide bedside table in vibrant purple. With elegantly curved legs and a smooth finish, you can complete your home's classic style with a fun, trendy twist. **020 8099 7443**, [outthereinteriors.com](http://outthereinteriors.com)

## SOFT LANDING

Create a complementary scheme in your abode with B&Q's collection of pretty printed cushions.

**0333 014 335**, [diy.com](http://diy.com)





# Decorating in... **WILLIAM MORRIS STYLE**

*The leader of the Arts and Crafts movement is influencing interiors once again with a revival of his iconic patterns*

Edited by **SEOANA SHERRY-BRENNAN**



The Brook wallpaper, £79 per metre panel, Morris & Co. **0844 543 9500**, [william-morris.co.uk](http://william-morris.co.uk)

**W**illiam Morris is one of 2015's most fashionable figures, despite passing away more than 100 years ago. Designers have taken the patterns that Morris is famous for and used them to create chic garments, so new generations can embrace his distinctive style. Luella Bartley and Katie Hillier's AW15 collection for Marc by Marc Jacobs sees stylised floral and fauna motifs on jackets and trousers and House of Hackney has also used updated versions of the prints on its clothing.

## **BUILT TO LAST**

While the 1960s saw a resurgence of Morris' acclaimed style, it wasn't until the following decade that it became popular again, as middle-class bohemians used the bold, eclectic prints in their homes. Morris & Co., which is now part of leading wallpaper and fabric manufacturer Sanderson, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2011 and has since grown in popularity, as home-owners celebrate the ethos which is synonymous with Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement. Craftsmanship and quality have now become key factors when it comes to decorating and furnishing homes. A heightened interest and appreciation in our own design heritage is another reason why Morris' legacy continues today, as we make a concerted effort to honour British designers and skill in our home renovations.

## **GOING GLOBAL**

The latest collection from Morris & Co., Archive III, features the sinuous curves and intricate detailing that defines the brand, all in rich, robust colour-ways. Morris himself drew inspiration from across the globe, in particular India and the Middle East, so many of the prints have an exotic, worldly vibe. Pair the striking patterns with mid-century furniture for a classic scheme, or combine with rough-luxe pieces for a contemporary twist. Florals are currently dominating the interiors scene, but instead of ditsy prints and graphic blooms, the current penchant is for naturalistic, vintage designs, which make Morris prints an ideal choice to update your home this summer.



## MAGIC OF MORRIS

*Alison Gee, Head of Design at Morris & Co., shares her thoughts on why there has been a recent resurgence in Morris' statement prints and patterns*

"Timeless, British, craftsmanship – those are the three words I would use to describe William Morris' iconic designs. I think people appreciate the hand-crafted look and traditional feel of the style, particularly in today's age of technology, which has created a fast, throwaway pace of life. People also feel a comfortable familiarity with the patterns, as they remember them from their past. It's fantastic that Morris is taught in primary schools as part of the national curriculum, as it exposes a new generation to these timeless classics. The historical influences that Morris used in his patterns gives them their unique longevity and beauty and the ground-breaking principles that Morris held in his work and his life still appeal to people now."

Have nothing in your  
houses which you  
do not know to be  
useful or believe to  
be beautiful

– William Morris

Mary Isobel wallpaper, £54 per  
roll, Morris & Co. 0844 543 9500,  
william-morris.co.uk



## MORRIS Makeover

Follow these top tips from Morris & Co.'s Head of Design, Alison Gee, to recreate the look in your interiors

- Use simple furniture styles mixed with hand-crafted pieces, such as embroideries and ceramics.
- Work with colour schemes that look as though they come from nature itself, or from faded medieval tapestries.
- Mix in some traditional ethnic textiles, rugs and artefacts – nothing too fussy though; keep it simple, hand-crafted and honest.

## OUT AND ABOUT

Visit one of these top locations to see stunning examples of William Morris design

- **Kelmscott Manor, Lechlade** Situated on the banks of the Thames, this 17th century farmhouse was Morris's favourite home. He is buried nearby, in Kelmscott churchyard.
- **Red House, Bexleyheath** Commissioned by Morris from Philip Webb when both men were in their 20s, this is where Morris lived with his wife Jane and their two daughters.
- **Victoria and Albert Museum, London** The V&A houses many examples of Morris & Co. embroideries, furniture, tapestries, textiles and tiles, as well as The Morris Room, also known as The Green Dining Room.
- **William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow** This is the only public museum devoted to Morris, who lived here from the ages of 14-22. Discover the cream of Arts & Crafts works as well as contemporary artwork inspired by his ideas.

Arbutus wallpaper, £58 per roll, Morris & Co.  
0844 543 9500, [william-morris.co.uk](http://william-morris.co.uk)





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### Site to see

Head to the RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show for a four-day floral extravaganza. The event is bursting with beautiful displays, garden guidance and botanical buys, and takes place from 30th July-2nd August. Head to [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk) to find out more.



RHS glazed pots, from £9.99; Borgan & Ball traditional trug, from £19.99; Welbeck bistro set, £149, all from Wyevale Garden Centres. 0344 272 3000, [wyevalegardencentres.co.uk](http://wyevalegardencentres.co.uk)



## Bloom of the month SUNFLOWER

*There's more to this fascinating flower than meets the eye...* Sun-tinted petals and an elegant, long stem make this bright bloom a popular summer choice, but its uses stretch much further than decoration. Native to the Americas, sunflowers' centres consist of disc florets, which later mature into seeds. While these seeds are commonly eaten as a snack and are great for

roasting or sprinkling over salads, they can also be used as bird feed and have been pressed for oil since the 18th century, which is ideal for cooking. If you're growing these golden giants, make sure you keep the soil evenly moist and prevent birds from stealing the ripened seeds by covering them with a light cloth, which will provide protection while allowing air and light to penetrate.

## Garden glory

*There's a wealth of benefits to be reaped from spending more time outdoors*

Heading to your garden for some quality time can do your physical, mental and emotional well-being a world of good. According to [farmgarden.org.uk](http://farmgarden.org.uk), gardening provides a workout for the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and can improve strength, endurance and flexibility. Beyond the physical benefits, a garden is also a great place to find peace and can have a calming influence on the mind, while cultivating your own fruit and vegetables often encourages a healthier diet.



# Seasonal shopping Garden Journal

The latest news, inspirational ideas and expert advice for your great outdoors

## SHOW & TELL

Established in 1875, The Shrewsbury Flower Show features TV personalities, celebrity chefs, singers and fantastic arena acts, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. The Outside Show Gardens are very popular, while the Severn Marquee is home to several societies, including amateur growers and Bees & Honey exhibitors. There is even a lecture theatre, offering talks on bug hotels, bio-diversity and wild flowers, which is ideal for younger visitors. The show takes place between 14th-15th August, visit [shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk](http://shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk) for more information.



Make your garden a helpful haven for birds and other wildlife with outdoor accessories from John Lewis. By attracting birds with these pretty and practical feeders and snacks, you can organically control the insects in your garden, aid flower pollination and reduce the amount of weeds by tempting the creatures to other natural nutritional sources in your outdoor space. Call **0345 6049 049** or visit [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com) to browse the selection.

## RETAIL THERAPY

Stay in style indoors and out with these handy accessories



### HANDS ON

Get stuck into your garden with these trendy Love the Glove Artisan gardening gloves, £16, Berry Red. **0845 450 3937, [berryred.co.uk](http://berryred.co.uk)**

### DRINK UP

Enjoy a cuppa out of this pretty patterned mug, £10, Sophie Allport. **0845 0177 866, [sophieallport.com](http://sophieallport.com)**



### PICTURE PERFECT

Capture your best botany in this feature photo frame, £6.75, The Contemporary Home. **0845 1308 229, [tch.net](http://tch.net)**



### RIDE ALONG

Display your blooms in this charming bike holder, £24.95, Melody Maison. **01302 711 116, [melodymaison.co.uk](http://melodymaison.co.uk)**

### SPRAY TIME

Bring some glamour into your garden with this Garden Glory Hose in Candy Crush, £89.94, Amara. **0800 587 7645, [amara.com](http://amara.com)**



## BRANCHING out

Editor of Grow Your Own magazine, Claire Holmes, reveals how to harvest delicious summer fruits



### EXPERT ADVICE

For more growing tips and ideas, pick up the next issue of GYO on 3rd August and get a free copy of *Let's Preserve It* by Beryl Wood.



"August is a busy time in the growing calendar and this is the month to brace yourself for an influx of tasty home-grown harvests. Fruit will be available in abundance and my mouth is already watering at the thought of fresh berries plucked straight from the garden. Many types of fruit trees and bushes need to be picked over regularly to ensure you can enjoy your crops while they're at their prime. Raspberry canes and blueberry plants should be checked daily – raspberries in particular can spoil quickly so don't let them go to waste.

I'm lucky enough to have a friend with a fig tree and we're both eagerly awaiting the sight of ripe fruit this month so we can bring out the mozzarella and experiment with some

wonderful dishes. If you're new to growing this crop, you will be able to tell your fruit is ready by three key pointers – first of all, your fig is likely to nod downwards instead of its bottom facing up the stem. Secondly, you might notice a little sugary drop of liquid exuding from the base of the fruit and, finally, it will start to smell delicious.

If you've got a very productive kitchen garden, the chances are you will soon be buried under a glut of fruit. Preserving the fruits of your labour is a great way to ensure you can get the most out of your yields and now's the time to stock your kitchen cupboards with delicious jams, juices and chutneys. Happy harvesting!"



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# GARDEN GOSSIP

# Sarah Raven



*The queen bee of the British gardening scene reveals her planting advice for the month and shares a fantastic offer with you*

**A**ugust has arrived and the garden is stuffed full of flowers and produce just waiting to be harvested. As well as the half-hardy annual cut flowers, there are armfuls of zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers begging to be picked, supplemented with huge and showy blooms from the dahlia patch. The key thing to remember with all of these ornamental plants is to not just look at them, but to pick them too. They will flower all the longer for it.

To create a dazzling display, start with *Euphorbia oblongata* in brilliant acid green. I consider it to be the foliage queen and almost always use it as the starting point in my arrangements. It's one of the best foliage plants you can grow, with a robust, upstanding structure that makes it an ideal base for a medium-sized arrangement.

A word of warning though - wear gloves so that you don't come into contact with its allergenic milky sap, as it can cause an unwelcome reaction, particularly on a hot, sunny day.

The second ingredient to harvest is a filler plant. Lots of things can fulfill this role, but I recommend choosing a different colour and form to the primary foliage, then slotting it in to fill up any prominent gaps. At this time of year, *Salvia viridis* 'Blue' is perfect, or the lacy *Ammi majus*. The third ingredient is what I call the upper storey, another foliage plant with an unusual architectural shape. The idea of this is to break up any over-neatness, introducing plenty of levels to make the arrangement as three-dimensional as possible. An interesting shaped grass or seedpod, or a vertical leaf spike like *Bells of Ireland* (*Moluccella laevis*) is ideal for this. Once you have your foliage, move on to the flowers. I always choose three different varieties. The first is the bride, the dominant bloom that forms the centre of your arrangement. This is the thing that you fall in love with in the garden, the flower you've just got to have. Dahlias are perfect at this time of year. I then choose a bridesmaid - something that is the same or a similar colour to the bride but with a smaller flower, so that it doesn't

compete. With a dahlia, choose a matching zinnia - they make a perfect pair.

Finally, I pick what I call the gatecrasher; the contrast, which brings the whole thing to life. This needs to be a colour that clashes with the other flowers, so with a purple dahlia and zinnia, I harvest the orange *Tithonia rotundifolia*, or with a white dahlia and zinnia, blue *didiscus* or *salvia*.

My arrangements are not about calm harmony, they are created to be centre stage and the gatecrasher is how you achieve this. With this recipe up your sleeve, every arrangement you make is guaranteed to sing.

*Sarah has been running cooking, flower arranging, growing and gardening classes since 1999. Join her and her team of experts at Perch Hill to discover how to create beautiful flower arrangements, cook and prepare seasonal produce and grow your own delicious vegetables. Courses run throughout the summer, for more information or to book your place visit [sarahraven.com](http://sarahraven.com)*

## Exclusive READER OFFER

Period Ideas readers can get free P&P across Sarah's wonderful array of products. Simply visit [sarahraven.com](http://sarahraven.com) and enter offer code **PD15SUM** at the basket. Offer ends 31st August 2015. Offer is only valid online and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. For full terms and conditions, visit [sarahraven.com/terms-and-conditions](http://sarahraven.com/terms-and-conditions)





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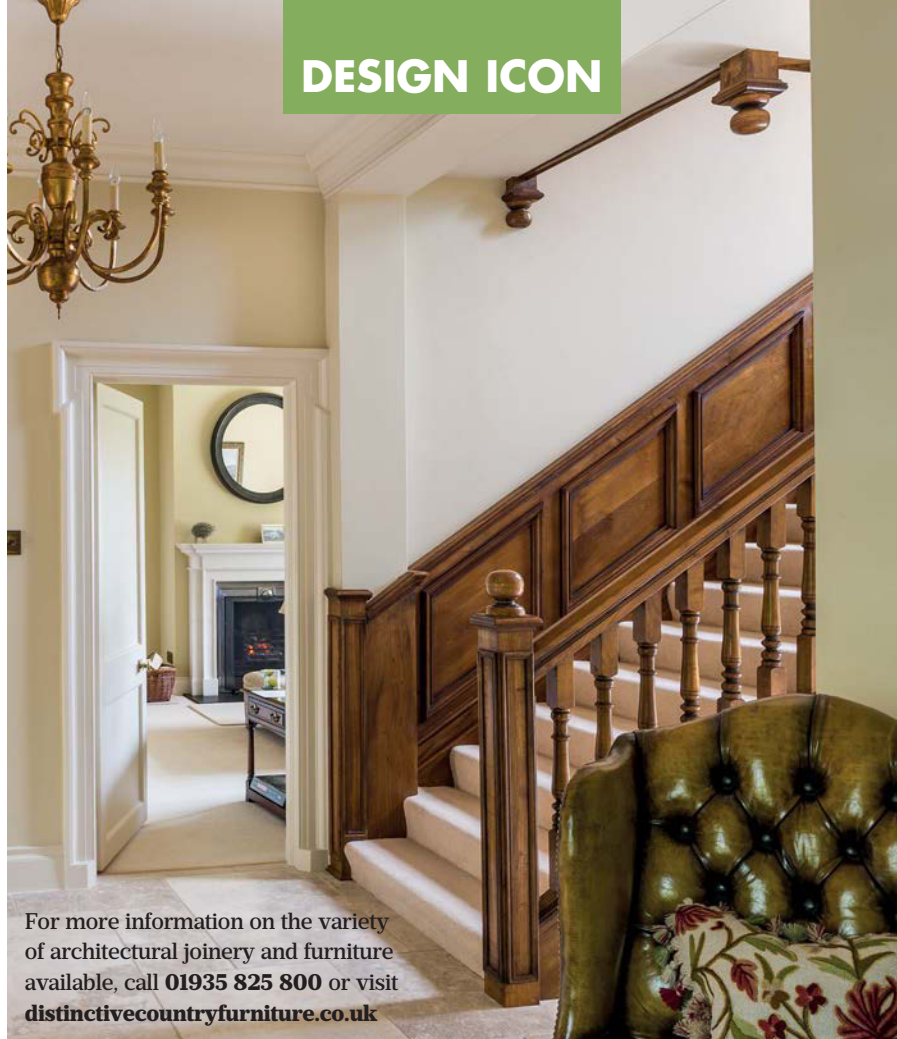
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# DISTINCTIVE COUNTRY FURNITURE LTD

*Period Ideas celebrates the best in British interiors*

When it comes to furnishing a period property, finding pieces to match a classic décor scheme in this day and age can be a tricky task and often leads to antique treasure hunting. Thankfully, Distinctive Country Furniture has a solution that will put an end to the arduous searching. Founder Brian Purnell, a highly skilled professional who has been in the industry for thirty years, started the company in 2001. His wealth of expertise and knowledge in architectural joinery and his great understanding of 16th-18th century interiors has helped to build a successful and highly reputable business, which manufactures everything you need for your traditional home.

At its workshop in the heart of Somerset, you'll find an impressive showroom of goods to browse before you buy, as well as the opportunity to get a glimpse of the work carried out there. Its dedicated team of craftsmen carve and polish pieces by hand using traditional and reliable methods, ensuring authentic and stunning results. They are happy to turn their hands to any specific requirements you have for your home and Brian is also available to meet with clients to discuss individual properties and bespoke commissions.

The company has a vast portfolio and its commissions include everything from simple plank doors and oak flooring to panelled

rooms, libraries and staircases. It has previously collaborated with one of England's top interior designers on an exciting project in Poland, creating a Gothic-style library. Displaying an impressive array of design details, this room incorporates many quirky features, including a bookcase with a secret door, dado height panelling to the entrance hall with built-in seats and a stunning, free-standing carved gun cabinet, depicting different woodland scenes. This is just one example of the company's excellent work and demonstrates the versatile skillset of Brian's team. You can rely on them to create features in keeping with your home's unique style, replicating original architecture with the longevity of modern materials.

Whatever your property's needs, Distinctive Country Furniture will not only fulfil them, it will exceed your expectations by recreating iconic styles, such as the various pieces for Claude Grahame-White's office at the RAF Museum in Hendon, which were produced from just a black and white photograph from 1915. The company has worked with many private clients, public organisations, charities, interior designers, architects and builders, as well as English Heritage, at the beautiful Great Yarmouth Castle. With a commitment to original quality craftsmanship and techniques, Distinctive Country Furniture will help to add the finishing touch to any period property.

**The team at Distinctive Country Furniture use traditional and time-honoured methods to create beautiful, classic interiors**



# Kitchen Hub

Discover delicious seasonal recipes, the latest kitchen must-haves and inspirational ingredient ideas

**YOU'LL NEED:**

- 375g ready-rolled all butter puff pastry
- Plain flour
- 450g pork sausage meat
- 2 tbsps freshly chopped sage
- 175g The English Provender Co. caramelised red onion chutney
- 100g hard goats' cheese, finely grated
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tsps poppy seeds



*Great British Food's  
Natasha Lovell-Smith  
says...*

*"Sausage rolls are the ultimate picnic food and once you've had homemade, you'll never go back! Ramp up the flavour by adding grated apple, herbs or chorizo to the sausage mix"*



Recipe courtesy of  
The English Provender Company

## 3 OF THE BEST... WOODEN UTENSILS

*Become a whizz in the kitchen with our round-up of cooking companions*



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Wooden salad servers, £22.50, Berry Red. **0845 450 3937**, [berryred.co.uk](http://berryred.co.uk)



**BEAT IT**

Buttercup whisk, £19, Clare Loves. **01494 874 101**, [clareloves.co.uk](http://clareloves.co.uk)



**BRUSH UP**

Handmade wooden pastry brush, £6.84, Cachette at [Furnish.co.uk](http://Furnish.co.uk). **0345 544 4044**, [furnish.co.uk](http://furnish.co.uk)

## Caramelised red onion chutney and goats' cheese sausage rolls

**1** Preheat the oven to 220°C (gas mark 7). Place the pastry on a lightly floured surface and unroll. Divide the pastry in half lengthways, so you have two long pieces. Spoon the chutney over the base of each, leaving a border of about 2.5cm and sprinkle over 75g of cheese.

**2** Place the sausage meat in a large bowl with the sage and mix well. Halve the mixture and using slightly wet hands, gently form each into a long skinny sausage the same length as the pastry.

**3** Place the meat mixture in the middle of one of the pastry pieces and brush one of its edges with some of the egg. Roll into a long cylinder, making sure the pastry overlaps where it meets. Place seam-side down and cut into six rolls. Gently squeeze the cut ends of each to neaten them if necessary and repeat with the other half.

**4** Transfer the rolls to a non-stick baking sheet. Brush with egg and sprinkle with poppy seeds and the remaining cheese. Bake for 20 minutes or until cooked and golden brown.

## WHAT TO DO WITH... Apples



August is the perfect time to harvest ripe apples. If they haven't dropped already, branches will be bowing down with the weight of fresh fruit, so get picking! This versatile ingredient is great for making both sweet and savoury dishes, not to mention providing a nutritious snack on the go. For a light lunch, slice over some salad with cheese, or create a delicious dessert for the family by

baking apple crumble. If you fancy something long-lasting, whip up some mouth-watering chutneys to accompany any meal, which will keep for months to come.



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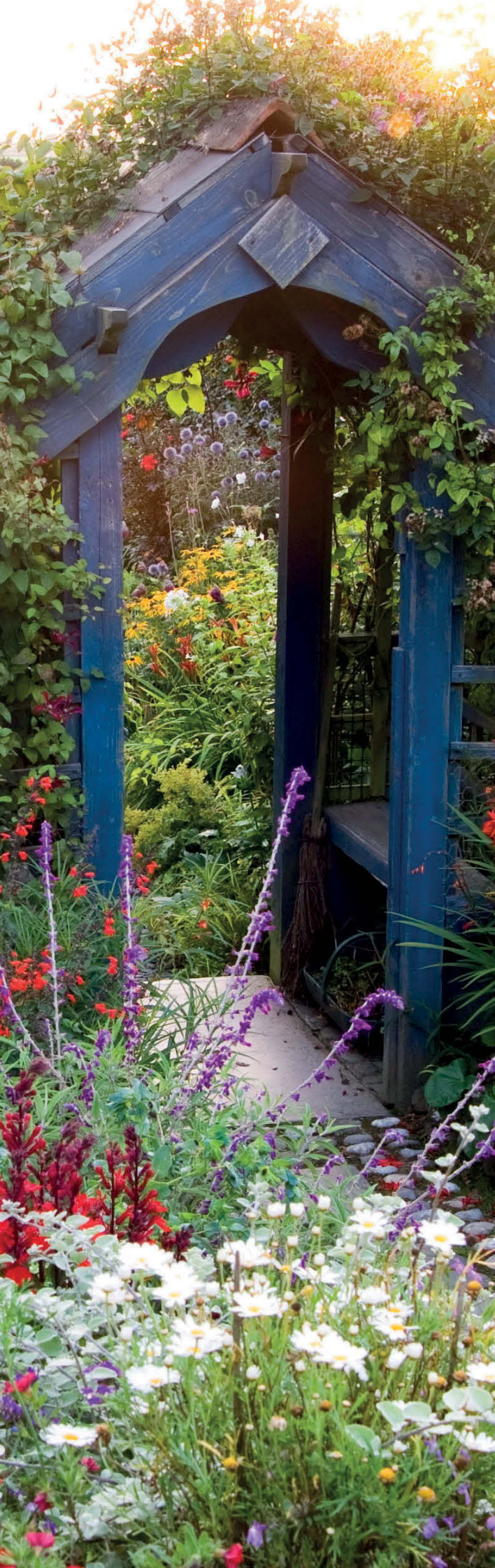
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# TEAM EFFORT

*Tina Primmer filled her Cornish cottage garden with a colourful collection of lush foliage*

Words & Photography **CAROLE DRAKE/GAP MEDIA**

**F**or many, a first job is simply a way to supplement one's pocket money, or to keep busy during the summer holidays. But for Tina Primmer, who started working at her local garden nursery aged 17, it sparked a passion for plants that led her to embark on a lifelong career. "I loved nature and I knew from that moment that I wanted to work outdoors," she recalls. As well as doing the thing she loved, Tina was also lucky enough to find real love, meeting her husband, Dave, while she was working at Carnon Downs Garden Centre. He was a trained horticulturalist who had worked in nurseries and garden centres for many years and their shared enthusiasm for all things green led the couple to leave Lancashire in 1990 and move to the milder climate of Cornwall, where they would be able to grow the tender exotics they adored.





### DOUBLE TROUBLE

The relocation wasn't a straightforward one though, as the pair chose to purchase a virtually derelict cottage, located on the Roseland Peninsula in the south of the county. What the property lacked in terms of amenities – a mains water supply, for instance – it made up for in challenges, such as an infestation of mice. Instead of a garden there was just a plot of land, measuring 60m long by the width of the house, which was crammed full of sheds that the previous owner had put up. The idea of a double renovation would be enough to deter most people, but that wasn't the case for Dave and Tina. Despite both having full time jobs, the couple decided to tackle most of the work themselves. "We decided to start on the garden before the house, because that was the most important thing to us," recalls Tina.

Their first winter was spent demolishing the sheds, clearing the ground, cutting back overgrown hedges and incorporating masses of compost and farmyard manure into the stony soil in preparation for planting. They then divided the long, narrow garden into three smaller sections, separated by timber archways. A small pond was added, as well as a decked seating area. In terms of plants, the couple put in small shrubs for structure, leaving most of the space free for the herbaceous perennials and bulbs that they both love. "From the start I thought in terms of colour-themed planting," explains Tina. "The first section was mostly cool shades, such as blues, lilacs and whites and then there was a hot garden, which was full of red, orange and purple tones."

**Right** All through the garden there's a stylish sense of design, with thrilling combinations of colour, texture and shape.

**Below** In 2007, the couple decided to open their garden to the public, calling it Poppy Cottage.











**Far right** In the hot-hued borders, Tina mixes the vibrant tones of rudbeckias, Crocosmia 'Lucifer', kniphofias and monardas with bold foliage plants such as ricinus, the false castor oil plant, ginger lilies and cannas to create a tropical feel.



## GO PUBLIC

Twelve years ago, when the garden was bursting at its seams, Tina and Dave were given the opportunity to buy a slice of the adjoining field, measuring 18m by 120m. They jumped at the chance and when permission was granted to change the land's use from farmland to garden, they drew up a list of the many plants they had always wanted to grow but hadn't had the space to do so before. Alongside fast-growing, short-lived shrubs such as cistus, ceanothus and buddleia, they planted slower-growing specimens such as nandinas, corokias and lophomyrtus.

In 2007, Tina found herself unable to work due to arthritis, so the couple decided to open their garden to the public, calling it Poppy Cottage. "I was very apprehensive at first," admits Tina. "I felt it was my special place and I didn't really want to share it. But when I realised how appreciative and enthusiastic the visitors were, my attitude changed and it's since become a real pleasure." While Dave runs a small garden maintenance business on the peninsula, Tina's time is dedicated to overseeing the garden and nursery, as well as looking after her ever-expanding collection of hens and ducks, their toy poodle, Siska, and ginger cat, Pepper. With Dave supplying a variety of delicious baked goods for visitors, she is free to spend every possible minute in the garden which, for Tina, really is her dream come true.

For opening times or information on how to get to Poppy Cottage, call **01872 501 411** or head to **[poppycottagegarden.co.uk](http://poppycottagegarden.co.uk)**







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# GLASS ACT



*This month we get to know Paul FitzGerald, the MD of Richmond Oak Conservatories*

**W**e love to celebrate small businesses in *Period Ideas*, so it was a joy to head to Hailsham, in East Sussex and find out more about the world of orangeries and conservatories. Paul FitzGerald has been working in the home improvement industry for 36 years, and spent nine years teaching workshop studies and engineering/architectural drawing.

"In 2001, I sold my last business and decided to freelance as a design consultant for other companies and was introduced to Richmond Oak in 2005," says Paul. Three years later I bought the business; introducing a new team structure, improved product design and implementing a bespoke management and enquiry system. It was a pleasing day in 2010 when my son Marcus said that he would like to join me, having had a very successful career in another sector, bringing many transferable skills with him that benefit Richmond Oak. Today, Marcus is the

Operations Director, and he works alongside other members of the team including, an experienced surveyor, CAD designer, several designers and qualified installers."

## MASTER BLENDER

Paul doesn't have a particular favourite period but is partial to Georgian and Elizabethan buildings. "I will say, though, that I'm a 'blender' rather than a 'contraster' when it comes to the design of glazed extensions to a home," he smiles. "I particularly enjoy the interaction with clients during the design process and going back to visit the finished project after completion.

"My proudest moment was when my son was born, but from a business point of view, I don't have one specific moment. I'm always proud of the finished projects we do, but what I've really been proud of is the attitude, skills and hard work of the other members of the team, that ultimately make me and the

business look good! We've been independently certified over the past four years resulting in having 96% pleased customers."

Paul doesn't let the grass grow under his feet. "Life's too short to do all the things that I would like to do... please someone invent the 36 hour day," he says. "The biggest challenge for the business and our industry probably falls into two areas. One is to attract discerning clients who appreciate high standards of workmanship and the other is to source good team members with the requisite skills and professional attitudes, who take genuine interest in doing an excellent job. We are lucky to have so many already but our future growth depends on finding similar people to join us."

He is very excited about the future and has plenty to look forward to. "I plan to treble the turnover of the business during the next three years, as people appear to be more confident in investing in their homes due to coming out of the recession. We constantly review the way we work and our exclusive oak product range, making modifications as required, ensuring we provide clients with the best service and design solutions possible.

**I particularly enjoy the interaction with clients during the design process**

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Find your next made-to-measure conservatory or orangery with the help of the talented team at Richmond Oak by calling 08456 442 257, or visiting the website at [oakconservatories.co.uk](http://oakconservatories.co.uk) for further information about their work.



REAL HOMES Scandi simplicity



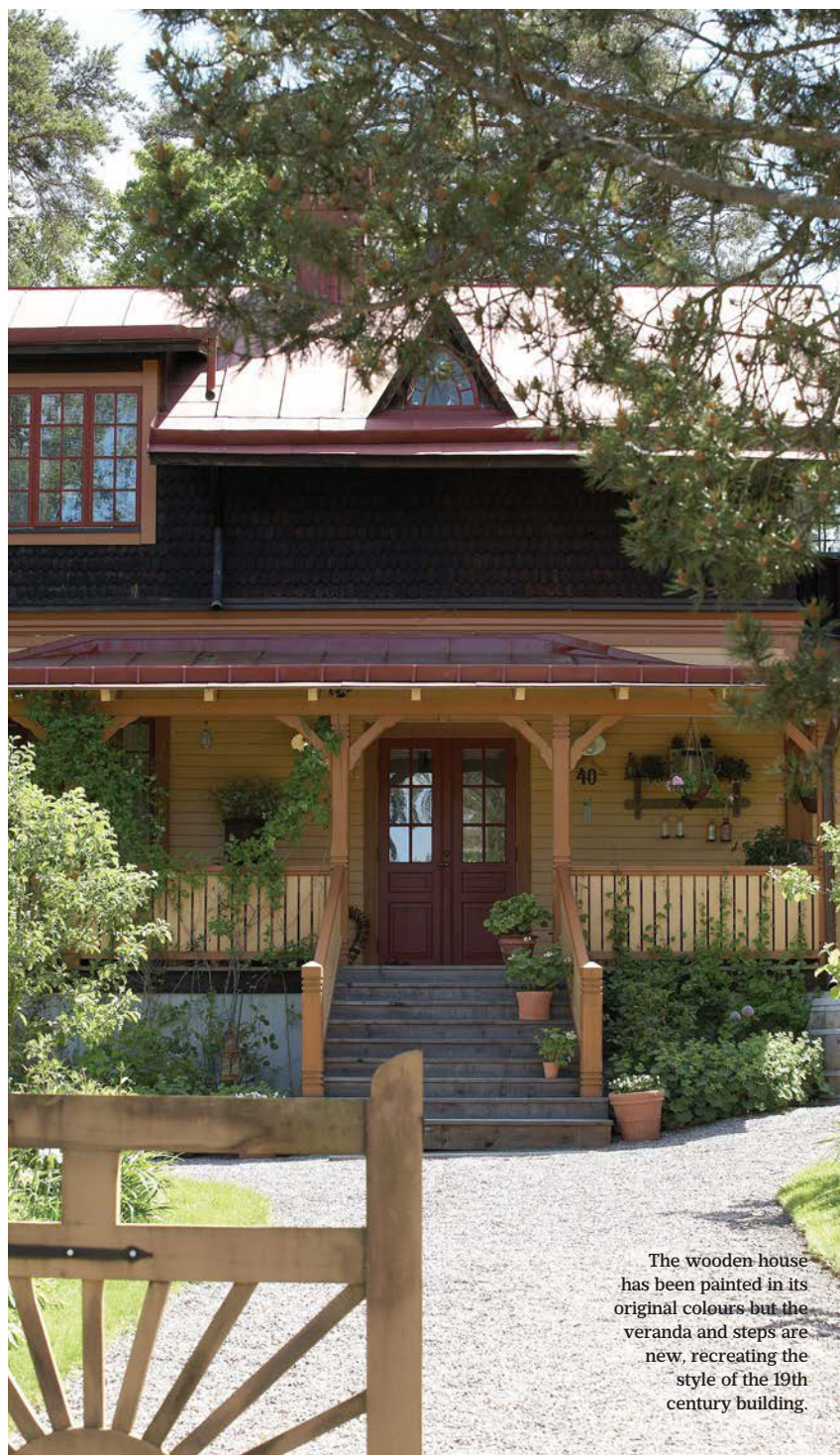
Even in summer, guests sometimes need a cosy blanket to keep off the chilly winds that can blow in from the sea, as well as the comfort of electric heaters.

NATURAL BEAUTY

# COME TO

*How Helena and Per Molund transformed a neglected home from*





The wooden house has been painted in its original colours but the veranda and steps are new, recreating the style of the 19th century building.

# LIGHT

*a bland wooden shell into the perfect place for a party*

Words **GAIL ABBOTT/GAP INTERIORS** Photography **MARK SCOTT/GAP INTERIORS**



## 3 ANTIQUE SHOPPING SECRETS

- Do your research! Make sure you're armed with an idea of what you want as well as relevant knowledge, to ensure you come home with a worthwhile bargain.
- Check for obvious signs of wear and tear. Small repairs can be worth making if you're snapping up a piece for a good price, but too much damage will mean you end up spending more than an item is worth.
- Find your niche. It's never going to be possible to learn about every area of antiques, so focus on something which interests you and that you want to source for your home. Having a specific plan in mind minimises the chances of impulse buying, which you may later regret.

**Above** Light and airy with high ceilings and a bay window overlooking the sea, the living room has many original features which were uncovered during the renovations.

Every year the inhabitants of Resaro, a sleepy island located near Stockholm, gather together to celebrate the longest day. The festival, which takes place all over Sweden, includes traditional folk dancing and a picnic, as well as raising a maypole. With such long, dark winters, it's not surprising that Scandinavians are keen to celebrate the sun's longest stint in the sky, which lasts until 11pm at the equinox. Helena and Per Molund have enjoyed the ritual every year since they moved to the island in 2000 with their children, Lovisa, 16, Anton, 14, and Edwin, 11. The festivities usually continue until well after sundown, with Helena and Per hosting supper at their comfortable and spacious home.

### BREATHING SPACE

Built at the turn of the last century as a holiday home for a Stockholm merchant, the Molunds' wooden house is decorated in the traditional Swedish manner, with plenty of pale shades and rustic textures. Light, bright and abundant in

space thanks to the addition of a large veranda, the property is ideal for hosting friends and family. However, it hasn't always been such a stylish hub for entertaining, as Helena recalls. "When we first saw the house ten years ago, it was perfectly habitable but totally uninteresting. Most of the interior had been modernised in the 1960s, which meant that every original feature had gone, including the windows. Sadly, all of the striking 19th century panelling was covered over."

Despite the bland interior, the combination of a fantastic location – just a 30 minute drive from Stockholm – and beautiful views over the Baltic meant that the couple couldn't resist the house. Helena could see that, despite the recent renovations, it had a hidden beauty just waiting to be discovered. "I loved the sense of space I got when we first walked in," she recalls. "The living area is built up high above the store rooms beneath, so when we stood in the hall and saw the sea I felt the spirit of the house waiting to be called into being."





**Above** The house had very few original features left, so Helena and Per had to source lots of antique pieces.



**Far left** Helena's traditional dining room features white walls, muslin curtains and grey-painted Gustavian-style furniture, which keeps the space light and bright.





Helena and Per made sure that the décor didn't distract from the beauty outside in any way

## PAST INSPIRATIONS

Helena and Per were keen to restore the house to its former glory as quickly as possible, so work on it began straight away. Carpets were ripped up, false ceilings were torn down and plasterboard was pulled off the walls, revealing original boarded panelling. "When the house was first decorated, the woodwork would have been stained dark brown," explains Helena. "But as the windows have been designed to face north east to keep out the hot summer sun, we decided to paint everywhere white to heighten the sense of space and light."

The previous owners had photographs of the house in its original incarnation from 1924, which Helena and Per used to direct their decorating decisions. "The first wooden veranda was smaller than what we now have, although the stairs faced the road in the same way," she points out. "We wanted to be able to sit out on it and eat, so now we have enough room for at least 20 of us." Even in summer, guests sometimes need a warm blanket to keep off the chilly winds that can blow in from the sea and there are also electric heaters for when it gets really breezy. Simple lanterns, hung from a peg rail along the wall, illuminate the short summer evenings, allowing the feasting to continue into the night.

## ALL WHITE

Inside, high ceilings and large windows are paired with a light and airy décor to create a feeling of openness. In the living room, a seat has been built into the bay window so that the family can enjoy the glorious views. A selection of contemporary cushions and stylish seat pads ensures that it is a comfortable spot to curl up in. The original ceramic tiled





stove was replaced in the 1950s with a more conventional brick fireplace and Helena has since installed a modern wood burning stove in the niche.

The dining room has a traditional Scandinavian decoration theme, with white walls, muslin curtains and sustainable furniture, painted in pale shades of grey. The antique light fitting was discovered in a barn in Northern Sweden, while an old cabinet that Helena found at an antiques fair has been painted white and is used to store wine glasses and china for the annual midsummer party.

With very few original features left in the house, Helena and Per had to scour the markets and salvage yards for antique pieces to integrate back into the property. A 19th century wood-fired oven injects a sense of traditional style back into the kitchen, while the units, which were installed in the 1950s, were freshened up with a quick lick of paint and new handles.

## NATURAL STYLE

With such stunning views surrounding the property, Helena and Per made sure that the décor didn't distract from the beauty outside. In their bedroom, a neutral colour scheme was chosen to lead the eye outside, while a pair of striking blue cushions reflects the shade of the sea on a bright summer's day. Their daughter Lovisa's bedroom is fresh and pretty, with splashes of bright colour to add interest. Helena painted the plain antique French bed in an unusual grass green shade which complements the sky blue walls and forms a unique and relaxing retreat for her teenage daughter to enjoy.

In the bathroom, Helena created handy extra storage from a peg rail and a vintage wooden apple crate, bringing texture and warmth to the all-white room. She keeps the laundry (of which there is plenty!) under control with fabric bags and baskets, stashed away in the utility room, while the painted wardrobe keeps the washing powder and cleaning materials out of sight.

Outside in the garden, lush green foliage and rustic wooden furniture help form a haven in which the family can enjoy spending time together. Every year, a long table is laid on the veranda under a huge wreath of birch leaves and flowers that Helena constructs, and guests wrap up in sweaters and blankets against the cool night air. "The evening always follows a time-honoured pattern," smiles Helena. "We eat potatoes and herring, drink toasts of Aquavit and sit for a long time as the sun goes down over the sea."



**Far left** In the master bedroom, a neutral colour scheme was chosen to lead the eye outside. A pair of cushions reflect the blue of the sea on a summer's day.

**Below** Helena keeps the family's laundry under control with fabric baskets, and stashes detergents and cleaning products in a pretty painted wardrobe.







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*Two lucky readers will win a luxury showering package worth £1,000 from Roman!*

**T**his year may have seen political debate take centre-stage, but one grudge match which is yet to be resolved is the battle of the bathing equipment. Whether you prefer a long soak in the bath or the speed and ease of a shower continues to divide opinion. But, even if you're usually partial to some quality time in the tub, the extensive range of showering products at Roman is sure to satisfy all of your cleaning needs and perhaps even convert you into a shower supporter.

The family-owned company was established in 1985 and is now the UK's leading shower designer and manufacturer. Its extensive range of high-quality products, which includes shower enclosures, wetroom panels, bath screens, shower trays and an array of stylish bathroom accessories, is guaranteed to turn any wet zone into a spa-like sanctuary. That means you'll be able to relax and recuperate after a long week, without stepping foot outside your front door.

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Roman is offering two lucky *Period Ideas* readers the chance to win a luxury showering package worth £1,000 each. The prize includes the stunning Embrace Curved wetroom panel, a walk-in shower enclosure that provides doorless entry and

effortless floor-level access and features a bright silver frame with stylish chromed brass wall bracing, to ensure full support and secure installation. It can be fitted into an alcove or a corner space, depending on the layout of your bathroom.

You will also win a low-level Infinity shower tray, which can be installed straight to joists so that once floor tiles have been laid, level entry access is created. This reduces the chances of any slips and makes the shower accessible to users who may have trouble stepping into a raised design. It comes in a choice of chic shades, including matt or gloss white and white, black and grey shimmer finishes.

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### How to enter

*For the chance to win this fabulous prize, turn to p.140 or head to [periodideas.com](http://periodideas.com) and answer the following question:*

**Q** When was Roman founded?

**A** 1984 **B** 1985 **C** 1986

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Two prizes are set for a luxury showering package worth £1,000 each, including an Embrace curved wetroom panel and a low-level Infinity shower tray. Only open to residents in mainland UK. No cash alternative is available. The prize is non-transferable and does not include installation or removal of an existing shower. The decision of the judge is final.

**CLOSING DATE: 14th August 2015**



ECLECTIC CHIC

# Taste of PARADISE

*Annie used her design experience to reinvent her period home using salvaged treasures and rich natural colours*

Words **MAGGIE COLVIN/GAP INTERIORS** Photography **SPIKE POWELL/GAP INTERIORS**

**F**or Annie von Brockdorff, design is a way of life. Having studied art and worked in Italy and the Far East in the fashion industry, her artistic flair is now focussed on property renovation. When she came upon a 300-year-old French manor house in the Var, it was the perfect opportunity to use her design experience and turn a run-down wreck into a comfortable home.

Having already restored the tower of a semi-derelict château nearby, Annie approached this project with confidence. "This is the seventh house I've worked on," she reveals. This experience meant that she was familiar with the French builders and planners and their methods of working. In fact, the buyer of her previous project was so satisfied with her work that he insisted on purchasing the property exactly as it was. "I sold my previous house lock, stock and barrel," Annie explains. "The buyer wanted everything, which was a compliment, I suppose, but it left me with hardly anything to use in my next project." The entire house was in need of furnishing, but thankfully Annie relished the opportunity to have a blank canvas on her hands.

## OUTDOOR ESCAPE

While the interior of the house wasn't in great shape, the surroundings were picturesque - sun drenched olive trees, luscious rolling hills, vineyards and a garden bursting with exotic foliage. Annie tackled the basics first, making sure the house's vitals were in working order. "We began with the usual challenges of updating the bathrooms, plumbing, heating and electrics and re-doing the kitchen," she says. "The bare bones of the house were sound and there was a particularly handsome drawing room with lovely proportions, as well as high ceilings in the bedrooms, but the old kitchen overlooking the drive was horribly dark and out of date." Annie remedied this by rearranging the layout of the house, creating a new light-filled space for cooking by swapping the original kitchen with the old dining room. This meant it now opened onto the garden and terrace, where Annie was planning to enjoy many summer meals. "I also got permission to put a new window in the kitchen which made the room even brighter," she explains, which makes the most of the natural light that flows into the house.

While the builders handled the inside, Annie took on the exterior, painting the shutters and installing a fountain she found at the Chelsea Flower Show. The concrete terrace was relaid with old rustic stones, while the plain trees were trained to grow over wires to provide shade for the new alfresco sitting room. Annie was keen to make the most of the stunning natural surroundings, so she created an enchanting botanical display, even dredging the lake to make space for a haven for fish and other water wildlife. Finally, Annie designed a salt water swimming pool, positioned to face the sun and overlook the breathtaking views of the valley. "Swimming in the pool is a real treat, as every direction is like looking at a French impressionist painting."

**Below** The traditional cobbled exterior of the property creates an irresistible antique charm which Annie loves, while the beautiful surrounding greenery fills the space with life and colour.







The picturesque surroundings comprise of sun drenched olive trees, luscious rolling hills, vineyards and a garden bursting with exotic foliage





## 4 | SHORTCUTS TO OUTDOOR CHIC

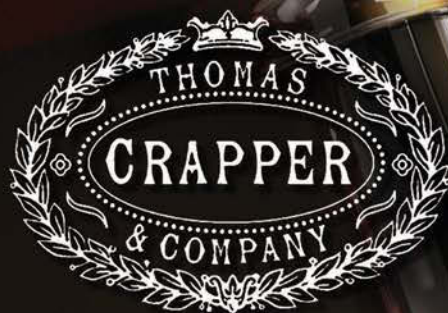
- If you can't track down antique garden furniture, don't panic, as reproduction pieces are easy to find, affordable and can be treated to give them an aged look and feel.
- Oversized accessories can make great statement pieces outside, so take a leaf out of Annie's book and choose a giant lantern to light your garden.
- Comfort is key when it comes to seating, so layer up cushions and throws to ensure a snug place for guests to perch with a thirst-quenching drink.
- Take the same amount of care when choosing garden furniture as you would when selecting pieces for your sitting room. Always make sure you have enough room to store your purchases out of season.



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**Left** After re-positioning some of the rooms, Annie found the perfect spot for the kitchen. It now opens onto the garden and terrace, so she can reap the benefits of the abundance of natural light.

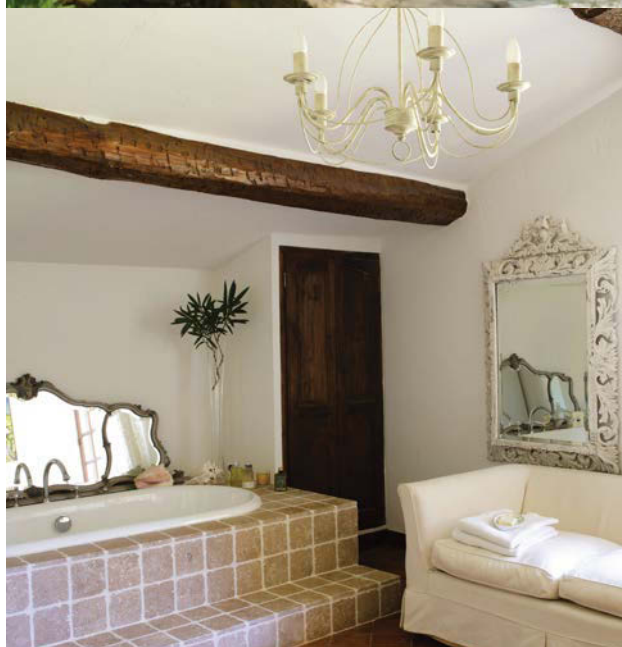
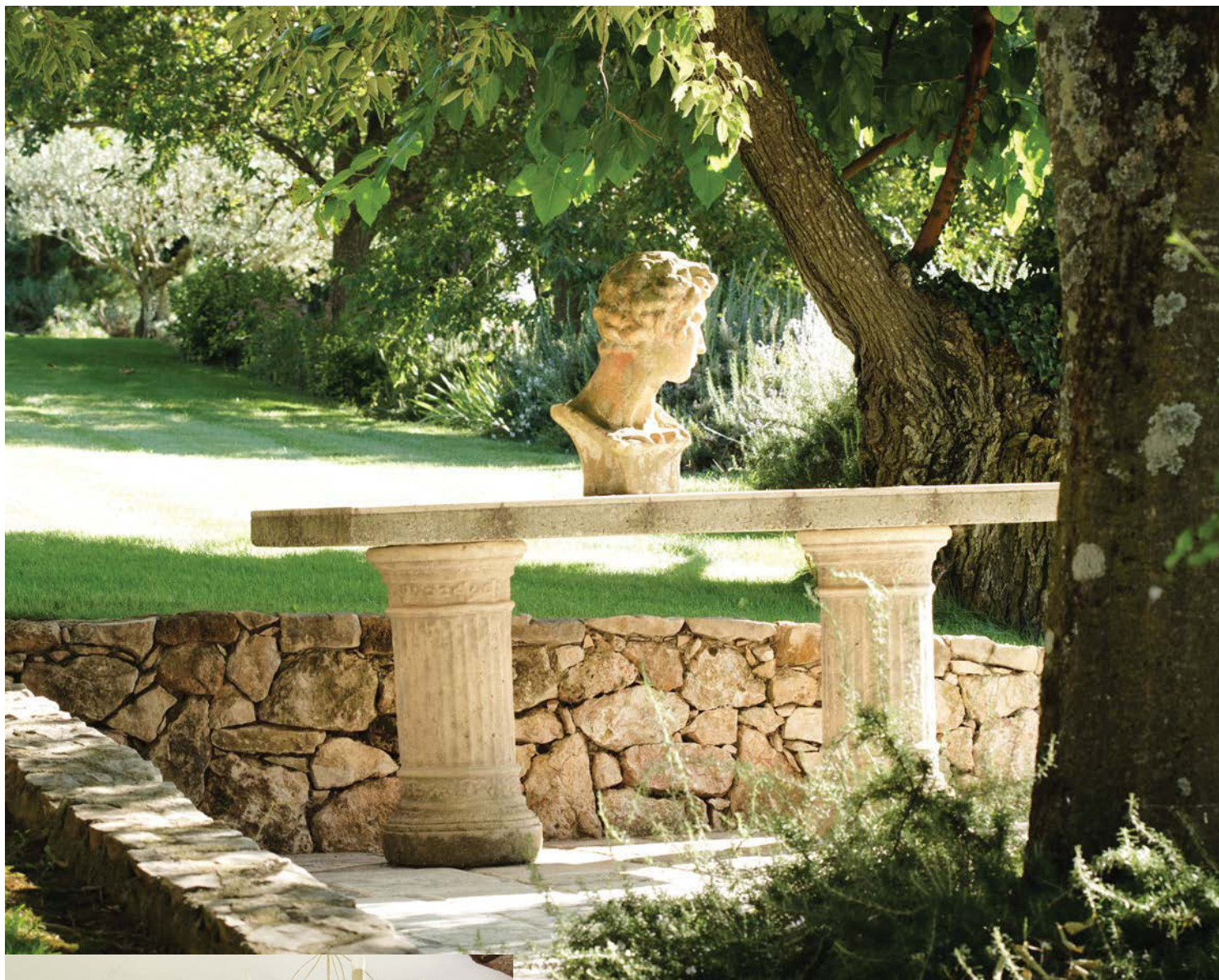
## DREAM TEAM

The real fun began for Annie when her friend and interior decorator, Nigel Bruce-de-Mumford, arrived and became her second pair of eyes. "Together we trailed the antique centres and reclamation yards, from Aix-en-Provence to Nice," says Annie. "I found a fireplace in an old château and got the local stonemason to copy the designs, omitting the original family crest, of course. We then designed our very own substitute coat of arms!" The pair opted for white walls and cream sofas, in keeping with the classic style of the region, but this was as plain as Annie was willing to go. "I am definitely not a taupe minimalist!" she insists. "I love an eclectic mix of antiques and contemporary styles, as well as indulging in colour."

This exotic taste has been a long-standing trait of Annie's design preferences, dating back to her very first home. "My first flat in the 1960s had terracotta washed walls and dragged grey woodwork – I have never stopped loving these unusual Italian combinations and I have a weakness for the opulence of silk curtains, which always look glamorous." Annie brought her taste for interior diversity into this French property with pieces such as the mirrored screen in the dining room, which was bought at an art exhibition. "Apart from classic French ingredients, like Aubussin rugs, antique French mirrors and chandeliers, I love to juxtapose a quirky art mix," she explains.







## FRENCH COUNTRY DÉCOR

*Say 'oui' to this comfortable and elegant style for a fresh summer update in your period property*

Embrace French country design with distressed finishes, mixed patterns and a combination of vibrant and subdued hues. Annie has kept her backdrop neutral, so that the striking prints and shapes of the antiques she sources really stand out.

**Right** Annie and her close friend, Nigel Bruce-de-Mumford, opted for white walls and cream sofas in keeping with the style of the region. This subtle scheme is supplemented with an eclectic mix of antiques.

Despite keeping busy hosting parties at the property, Annie confesses to getting the renovation project itch. "If I am honest, I cannot wait for another lock, stock and barrel offer. It is part of my roving instinct and as my son, Dan, and other kind friends have observed, I am never happier than when I am doing up houses."





The kitchen now opens out onto the garden, where Annie enjoys hosting summer parties



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# Family fortunes

*Find out how Helen and Brian Scholfield transformed a derelict farmhouse into a welcoming home.*

*Words* **MAGGIE COLVIN/GAP INTERIORS** *Photography* **SPIKE POWELL/GAP INTERIORS**





**Above** The couple's drawing room blends classic style with a cheeky nod to fashion, thanks to the leopard print. Soft neutral tones in the flooring and furnishings evoke instant comfort.

Brian and Helen Scholfield spent ten years living in an extraordinary all-glass house in California, with amazing views. Missing their grandchildren's school days, they decided to come home but adapting to life in England, and finding a house to match the high American standards they were used to was hard for Helen.

Even the historic quaintness of English period properties paled in comparison to the exciting dimensions of American houses with open-plan living which they were used to. In fact, there's no doubt their American experience inspired them to make a dazzlingly original conversion of a derelict farmhouse near Henley on Thames. Now they love having a home which is big enough to play host to their two sons Ben, 28, William, 18, and their two grandchildren.

The 16th century farmhouse with a cowshed and barn attached, lay in 80 acres of lush meadowland near to the Thames with open views over some of England's loveliest countryside. It had been left empty for twenty years by a Greek shipping magnate who had no desire to sell and was in dire need of some tender, loving care and considerable investment of time and money when the Scholfields arrived.

"It had been a dairy farm until the mid 1930s", says Brian, a music producer. "Then it was left to rot. You cannot imagine the state it was in when we bought it in 2004. Fortunately, Helen and I had tackled two derelict home property conversions before this one, so we were aware of possible problems, although you never quite know what to expect when you take on a listed building."





## RETURN TO GLORY

Helen explains that the importance of the farmhouse's historical grading worked wonderfully in their favour. "The listings office was longing for someone to revive this derelict property and they were absolutely brilliant in terms of offering us advice and support. Just recently we applied and obtained permission to stage weddings in the large converted barn, which is a huge bonus as I have now launched a wedding business ([oldworleys.com](http://oldworleys.com))."

The couple spent four years living in a Portakabin but Helen says it was a price worth paying for the high standards achieved by their builders, John Lay, and their joiners, FJ Williams. "Some kind neighbouring friends offered to put us up, during the work, but we found we had to be on site to make decisions almost every day," says Helen recalling how her tiny table kitchen in the barn, was heated was by two large patio heaters.

The conversion of the cowshed into the main family living area with a sitting room extension took place about

the same time that all the rotting windows, dating from the 1960s, were replaced. "They had stuck on lead lights," says Brian. "In the early stages Helen and I went to France to find fireplaces, inspiration and reclaimed materials. My wife is quite capable of screeching the car to a halt in front of some smart gates to take a photograph and then, to my embarrassment, take out her measuring tape. But many of our best architectural features were sourced through her talent spotting."

The old cart shed was turned into a kitchen dining room, furnished with favourite French pieces, and is full of light and calm. Helen's kitchen pivots around an island and has a New Port Beach style of slatted timber painted ceiling. Her main aim in this room was to achieve a homely farmhouse feel and she has certainly gone to town with granite worktops and classic styling.

Helen and Brian's drawing room is decorated in a relaxed traditional style in keeping with the history of the house which in this area dates back to the 16th century.

**Above** Helen's good taste and restrained use of colour come to the fore with carefully chosen taupes and blues. Fresh flowers and artwork add personality to this welcoming spot.





We found lots of architectural features on our trips to France. Using reclaimed materials is so important to renovating an old house. I like the views from our bedroom and the light, feeling of space and the vista towards the river.







## Helen mixed new furniture with French antiques for an eclectic look

They bought their sofas from Andrew Martin and their fireplace was sourced from The French Reclamation Centre. The walls are painted in Savage Ground by Farrow and Ball.

In contrast, the family sitting room in the new extension has

There is a large French mirror mounted on a second door which leads to an adjoining dressing room. The rest of the property comprises of a hall, cloakroom, winter snug, double-height wedding reception room, five bedrooms, two bathrooms, four shower rooms and two honeymoon suites.

### CUT IT OUT

Helen says her method of designing was to pin inspirational magazine cuttings around the Portakabin walls. "The pictures were jammed up together and looked a bit like quirky wallpaper. I would point to the relevant photo of what the staircase or the fireplace was destined to look like when my friends came round to see how my plans were taking shape. Sure enough, our clever builders and joiners were able to reproduce the illustrations down to the fine details. We owe much of the success of this project to their amazing skills."

As Helen's interior designs evolved, she found herself mixing contemporary pieces with French antiques and Newport Beach, Cape Cod and Nantucket styles, so that each room has its own particular look and the whole house benefits from a rich variety. "It is quite eclectic which I like," she says.

"I had a bit of a problem getting rid of inherited pieces which just did not fit in, but luckily, when we got them out of storage after five years, they just did not have the same shine. So we had a massive clear out. Fortunately Brian trusts my judgement."



**Above** The kitchen combines the best of old and new with a fabulous range cooker as well as a flat screen tv so the chef can keep up-to-date with news and current affairs whilst whipping up a culinary storm.

taken on a contemporary feel with a large black velvet sofa and pale cream limestone tiles. The staircase leads to the master bedroom above. This soothing space has been designed to maximise the view with its deliberately minimal choice of furniture dominated by a robust characterful bed made from reclaimed timbers, which were painted and distressed. The antique French dressing table, chair and glass-topped metal base bedside table were all from Gary Willis. Farrow and Ball's Borrowed Light was chosen for the walls and the bed came from Rosemary Cartshed.

The ensuite bathroom has clean lines and sculptured basins, with excellent sanitaryware from Villeroy & Boch.



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**Inside knowledge**

The master bedroom benefits from glorious views of the countryside and is the ideal place for breakfast in bed during a lazy weekend. A simple sideboard is ideal for storage in the hallway - the graphic prints above it add glamour to a practical spot. Helen's ensuite bathroom is full of understated luxury thanks to chunky brassware and chic sit-on basins for him and her. In the guest room, a French country theme works well with the beams and distressed furniture.





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Words **WILLIAM YEOWARD/CICO BOOKS**  
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**Left** The garden room is furnished with an eclectic mix of Edwardian-style chairs, a linen-union covered armchair, a circular oak table and a brightly coloured hexagonal table William bought on a trip to India,

I love my house in the country for all sorts of reasons, but if I'm really honest, the reason I bought it probably has much, if not more, to do with the fact that I'm a very visual person. I am always drawn to houses that are quirky and pleasing to look at, and my house, with its pointed gothic windows, quatrefoils and crisply carved stonework, is a joy.

It's no exaggeration to say that, when I took it on 18 years ago, it was dreadful in every way. It was tatty and the lay out just didn't 'work'. But I could see it had potential, and, although not large overall, it gave me scope for a wonderful, big drawing room, perfect for quenching my passion for entertaining. It was originally two separate buildings – a Victorian schoolhouse and, a few feet away, the schoolmistress's cottage – which after conversion, were linked together in the 1970s. I came to the conclusion that the only solution was to tear down the entire link and start again, reconfiguring the space to create a new entrance, complete with the porch and hall.

I love entertaining and in the country, it has a very different feel to my house in London. Ideally, I get flowers

from my own garden but sometimes there simply isn't anything out there, or perhaps I'm having the sort of celebration when exotic blooms would 'tick the box' better than traditional English varieties. I can buy them at the market and choose them mainly for their bold shapes and unusual colours. The most important thing is not to be mean with flowers – and do remember to buy them early, so that they have time to come out and be at their best when needed.

## DELIGHTFUL DINING

I think dining rooms are like chameleons – their appearance can be changed to suit different circumstances. When arranged for a summer lunch, my dining room has a totally different ambience from when it's set for dinner in winter. In summer, when the curtains are open and you can step straight into the garden through the French doors, it would look laboured for the table to be laden with huge amounts of tableware or smothered in dark, heavy colours. The impression has to be one of lightness, to match the season. Simple is the key, but that doesn't mean that the china and



The only 'solid' colour on the table is seen in the napkins, which punctuate the sunnery freshness of the pale tableware arranged on a light cloth.





This is where William sits outside if the weather looks unpredictable. If it starts to pour, he can dash back into the garden room- and have a little snooze. On fire days it is a suntrap in the late afternoon, a perfect time and place for a glass of wine





**Far right** A metal bench looks more in keeping in this setting, which has an architectural backdrop

**Above** William's summerhouse is on a revolving base, so it can be turned to face the sun, or if that's too dazzling it can be moved away.

plate have to be totally plain. Pale plates with pretty shapes and clear glasses with subtle detail provide interest without being unfussy. A few pebble vases of unpretentious flowers complete the delicate effect.

Everyone who leads a busy life appreciates somewhere quiet to escape to, and my bolthole is a small stone building, close to the house but detached from it. It was previously an ugly, tumbledown shack, which didn't serve any useful purpose, so we rebuilt it and transformed it into a sitting room in miniature, where one can be on one's own. ('Two's company', they say – but sometimes one can be fun!)

I use the room mainly as a place to read or think about new design projects (or even write books!) happy in the knowledge that – and this is very deliberate – there is neither telephone nor computer to disturb the peaceful atmosphere. With French doors leading directly into the garden, it's a light, airy space, which is hung with numerous paintings, none of any great importance but all with something that makes them special to me.

## MAGICAL MEADOW

The part of my house that was originally the school mistress's cottage looks across a ha-ha to what was once a farmed field but is now a wild-flower meadow. It's the perfect spot for a picnic, even though it's only yards from my front door. I always have a couple of folding tables for setting out the food, and canvas-slung, directors' chairs for those who prefer to sit rather than spread out on cushions on the grass.

I don't see why a picnic shouldn't be, in its own way, every bit as stylish as a meal in a more permanent location, so I take along full-length tablecloths and masses of fabric to lay on the ground in lots of different colours, to create an

inviting vignette. Hopefully the sun will shine, so umbrellas are important – and if it rains, they are essential! I always prefer to buy organic food if I can, and it seems especially appropriate in the close-to-nature setting of a picnic.

There is a certain holiday mood about a picnic, so it's an opportunity to enjoy the sort of rustic, souvenir plate and dishes that have great charm but are not always easy to use in other contexts. Something that often appears on our picnic is my retro radio – but only played very quietly of course!

I seize every opportunity I can have to have lunch outside. Somehow, the fresh air sharpens one's tastebuds and food tastes especially delicious. One part of my garden is arranged specifically for dining, with a wooden table and benches that have weathered over the years and now have a wonderful patina of age. The table is a straightforward, traditional design with a slatted top, while the benches and chairs are more decorative, with curving top rails and a slightly Chinese motif used for the back. The furniture looks good all year round – an important consideration in winter – and is robust enough to be left outdoors, whatever the weather. It stands on old stone slabs which provide a firm surface and dry off quickly after rain, and is a sheltered by a drystone wall.





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Museum quality blue john and ormolu-mounted urn and cover

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Rare blue john and ormolu-mounted three-branch candelabrum

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a vast array of inspiring items, from British and decorative furniture, 20th century art, jewellery, silver, ceramics, glass, pictures and oriental pieces, to vintage clothes and contemporary items. All the items are vetted by a team of experts for quality, date and condition allowing you to buy with confidence from any one of the 230 dealers present. There's something for everyone with prices ranging from £10 to more than £50,000.

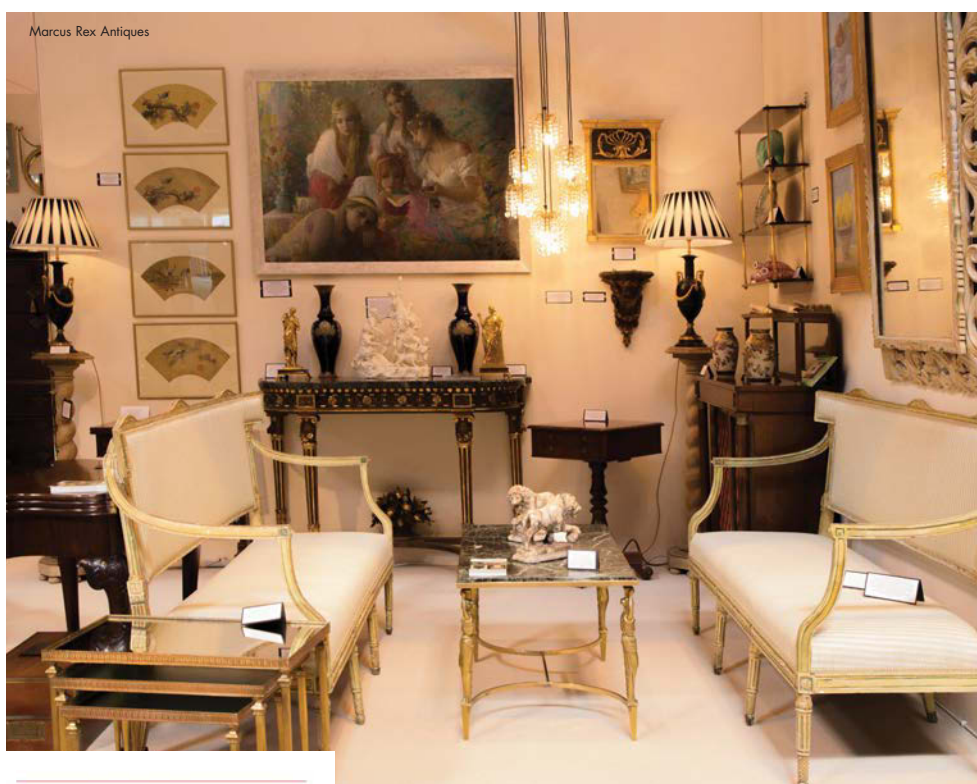
## PRECIOUS GEM

Look out for a rare Regency treat! A museum quality exhibition of Britain's rarest semi-precious stone, Derbyshire blue john is being displayed. Blue john is a beautiful form of fluorite with purple-blue or yellow bands of colour which create striking patterns in the rock. It is these colours which gave the material its name – in French 'bleu jaune'. These ornaments became increasingly popular in the second half of the 18th century and are found in stately homes like Chatsworth and Buckingham Palace. This prestigious exhibition is being hosted by Fellows Auctioneers prior to its auction in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter this October.

Well-known speakers at the event will include BBC Antiques Roadshow experts Judith Miller and Will Farmer who will be sharing their top tips on what's hot and how to get started in collecting. This summer they will be joined by independent expert, Jeremy Thornton, who will be speaking on art as an investment. There is plenty to inspire at Antiques for Everyone giving you the opportunity to fuse antique and vintage with modern interiors to achieve your own unique style.



Dutch ivory and fruitwood marquetry inlaid walnut side chair from Dunecht House, c1720, from Freshfords Fine Antiques



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CAN'T WEIGHT

# Collectables

*Margaret Powling explores the past of the humble paperweight and reveals the details behind the decorative designs*

**T**he term 'paperweight' is a misnomer; such objects were never intended to secure a pile of paper, they were for display on table tops or in vitrines. Intriguing to look at, the more you examine them, the more you see. Indeed, the intricate designs are often so complex and so tiny, it is difficult to comprehend how such precision could have been achieved.

Glass-making was once a highly covert business, with producers closely guarding the secrets of their techniques. This means that there are few absolute facts as to the paperweight's origin, but my research suggests that small-scale manufacturing began in Venice in the early 19th century. The classic period for paperweight production – in terms of both quantity and quality – was from the 1840s to the 1870s, not in Venice, but in France. The main manufacturers were Baccarat and St Louis, in the Alsace-Lorraine region, and Clichy, located in a suburb of Paris.

## GLASS ACT

Some of the most exquisite paperweights are those referred to as millefiori. This is a glasswork technique whereby glass rods are cut crosswise to reveal minute designs. Several rods are then heated and combined to make millefiori canes.

According to glass expert, Sara Rossi, "Some of the canes contain tiny silhouettes: camels, deer, horses, griffins, goats, butterflies, elephants and dancing figures."

The designs of non-millefiori paperweights – flowers, fruit, and butterflies – are made by hand. In the 19th century, many of these were lampwork designs, a process where a piece of

coloured glass is held with tweezers in front of a blowlamp and shaped as required. When all the individual components have been made, they are then assembled in an iron mould and heated up so that they join together.

## FIRST DATE

The Baccarat factory, or Le Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, is famous for paperweights featuring beautiful pansies. It is thought that they were exchanged as keepsakes between loved ones, as the word 'pansy' derives from the French 'pensee', meaning thought. In 1940, paperweight connoisseur Evangeline H Bergstrom remarked that the Baccarat factory was the first to engage extensively in the manufacture of lead glass for windows and this explains why Baccarat paperweights rank first in terms of quality, workmanship and beauty of design.

St Louis, or La Verrerie de St Louis, was the first French factory to date paperweights, with its first marked 1845. One of the main differences between St Louis and Baccarat is that the glass in a St Louis paperweight has a great deal more clarity and fewer striations. The variety of canes is

also more limited, with soft greens, blues and pinks used. White was used in latticino twists, in a filigree style. Thirty percent of St Louis weights feature flowers, the most popular of which is the dahlia.



## ON THE MARK

Another famous factory in the production of paperweights is Clichy. By 1849 it dominated the market for these luxury items and was the only French firm to take part in the glass section of the Great Exhibition of 1862 in London. "Ravenscroft's invention of lead crystal had previously been thought to produce the best and clearest glass, but Clichy's boracic glass equalled lead crystal in quality," says Rossi. Clichy paperweights are occasionally marked with an initial or their namesake, but never with a date. They are easily distinguishable by a pink or white rose in their pattern, resembling the cabbage rose that is found in Provence.

All three factories were also fond of using snakes in their designs, the reptiles resting curled on a bed of white latticino or on a coloured ground. The St Louis factory seems to have been especially keen on salamanders and lizards, while Baccarat snakes were usually placed upon a sandy background. Perhaps not to everyone's taste, but still fascinating to admire.





#### Left

Viceroy solid brass large golden paperweight clock, £252, [artisanti.com](http://artisanti.com)

#### Top right

The Baccarat and St Louis factories, which were the main manufacturers of paperweights during the 19th century, are located in the French Alsace-Lorraine region

#### Right

A fine Baccarat blue carpet-ground paperweight, dated 1848. Set with a variety of canes including silhouettes of a cockerel, a bird on a shamrock, a butterfly, a swan, a dog and a goat, all within cobalt blue cane clusters with white centres. Estimated value of between £4,000 and £6,000, [bonhams.co.uk](http://bonhams.co.uk)



## Paperweights: What to look for

*Margaret reveals the details you should seek for your own collection...*

Firstly, check that the design is centred. Ensure the canes aren't broken and that they are evenly spaced and look for air bubbles that might spoil the pattern. All parts of a flower design should be perfect – carefully assess the leaves, stems, and petals to make sure they aren't separated. Check the glass surrounding the subject is free of imperfections. Review the overall condition of the paperweight; the fewer scratches and chips, the better. Bear in mind that, generally speaking, the more intricate the design, the more desirable the paperweight.

The best collections are those which are based on a theme, for instance, style, colour, technique or maker. This ensures a cohesive arrangement. It can be difficult to tell if a paperweight is an antique. Train your eye to become more aware of the age of pieces by examining as many weights as possible, looking closely at photographs, and doing your research! You will eventually become more familiar with the subtle details that are consistent with a high-quality paperweight.



## DIARY DATES

### ● Antiques for Everyone Summer Fair, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 23rd–26th July

Celebrating thirty years at the heart of the UK antiques market, Antiques for Everyone provides the perfect opportunity to shop for one-off finds from over 200 dealers. Discover an unrivalled range of items including decorative furniture, 20th-century art, jewellery, silver, ceramics, glass and much more, as well as a celebrity talks programme. Tickets are £12, open from 11am–6pm (closes at 5pm on Sunday).

0844 581 0827, [antiquesforeveryone.co.uk](http://antiquesforeveryone.co.uk)

### ● Salvage & Vintage Fair, Knebworth House, 25th–26th July

Held in the grounds of one of the grandest stately homes in Britain, Bentleys Fairs annual salvage and vintage event is not to be missed. Many of the top traders from the UK and Europe will be exhibiting their finest stock, including original and authentic decorative salvage, garden statuary and a stunning array of vintage items. There will also be entertainment in the form of a vintage group, performing at 2pm on the Saturday. Tickets are £9.50, open from 10am–5pm.

07828 772 475, [bentleysfair.co.uk](http://bentleysfair.co.uk)

### ● Decorative Home & Salvage Show, Cheshire Showground, 8th–9th August

The last event in the Decorative Home & Salvage Show's calendar takes place at the Cheshire Showground, which is located near the grounds of the stunning Tabley House in Knutsford. The venue offers a glorious, rural setting for traders to display the finest in architectural antiques, salvage and decorative furnishings, so whatever you're on the hunt for, you're sure to find it among the wealth of treasures at this fabulous show. Saturday and Sunday tickets are available to buy on the day for £5, open from 10am–5pm.

01298 27493, [asfairs.com](http://asfairs.com)

### ● The Watch Sale, Fellows Auctioneers, Birmingham, 25th August

Held on the last Tuesday of every month, this exciting sale pulls together the very best in vintage and modern wrist watches and regularly features timepieces from Cartier, Breitling and Rolex, alongside quirky pocket watches. Fellows holds more specialist watch sales than any other auctioneer, which means that there is a constantly changing selection of wonderful items, ranging from contemporary commercial pieces to vintage rarities. Buyers can bid online, where they will also be able to view high-resolution photographs along with full condition reports and interactive 360° imagery.

0121 212 2131, [fellows.co.uk](http://fellows.co.uk)



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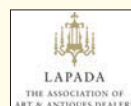
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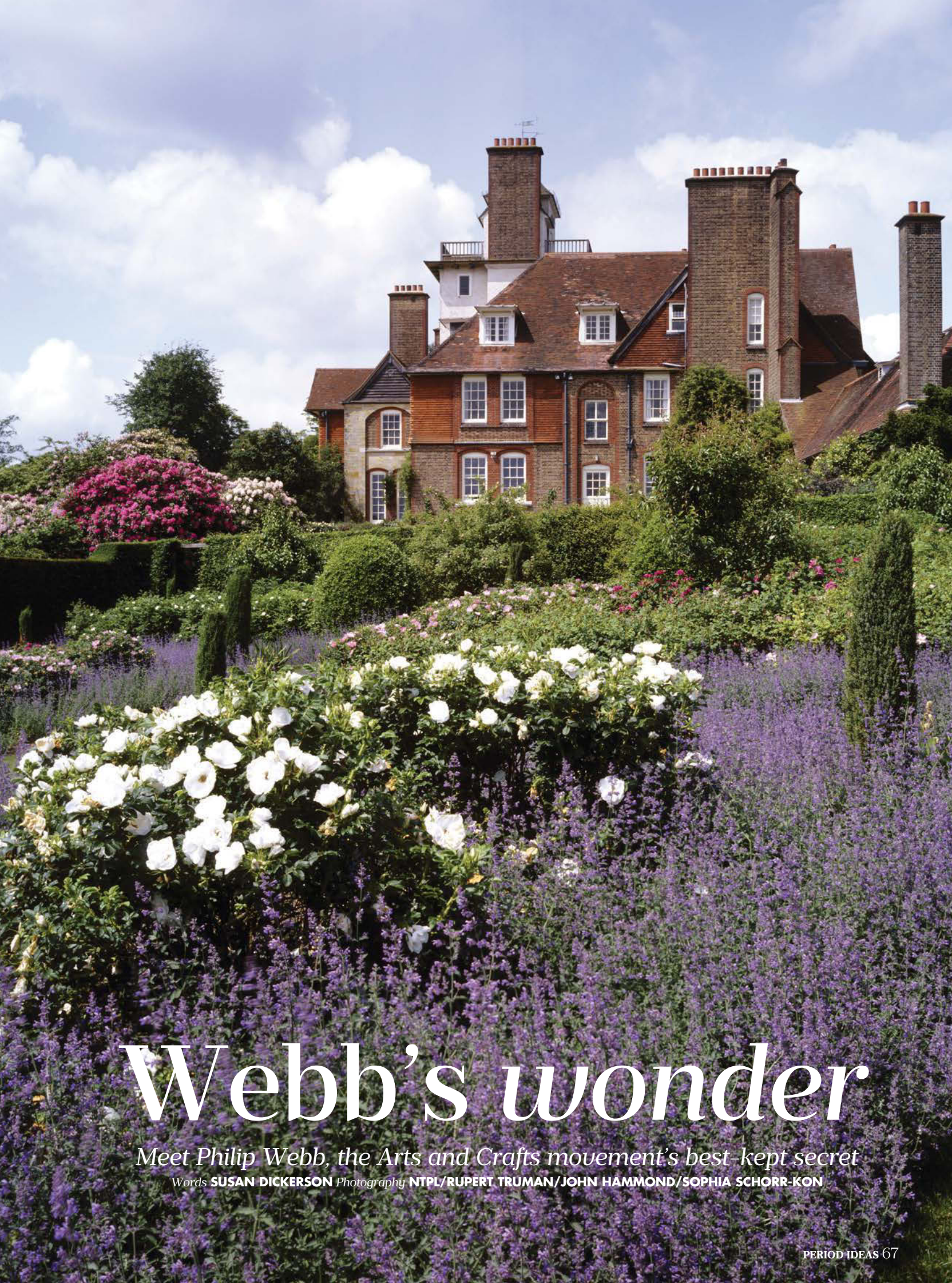
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# Webb's *wonder*

Meet Philip Webb, the Arts and Crafts movement's best-kept secret

Words **SUSAN DICKERSON** Photography **NTPL/RUPERT TRUMAN/JOHN HAMMOND/SOPHIA SCHORR-KON**





can see some of Webb's personal possessions, some of which have never been on public display. These include his architect's drawing instruments, watercolour paint box and his Gladstone bag. Among the other highlights is a silver and mother-of-pearl snuff box that originally belonged to William Morris, which his wife gave to Webb following her husband's death. Also on display is a rare drawing of Webb, shown in his kitchen, painted in 1913, two years before his death.

The Arts & Crafts movement was a reaction to the excesses of Victorian industrialisation and saw a return to honest craftsmanship and local materials. Webb was at the forefront of this, and his designs were influenced by the medieval past, a love he shared with Morris. Red House, his first commission, and Standen, among his last, illustrate his remarkable flair for design and creativity down to the smallest detail.

### MODEST MAKER

Tessa Wild, National Trust curator says, "The Arts & Crafts movement became an international phenomenon and these design ideals still resonate with so many people. Philip Webb, a modest but highly talented designer and strikingly individual architect, was at the heart of this ground-breaking design movement.

"We have recently acquired a number of Webb's belongings which offer a rare insight into his life, set within the stunning interiors of Red House. We hope that our events here and at Standen will show what a remarkable contribution he made to the history of architecture and design and that our visitors will enjoy discovering more about this extraordinary man."

Webb was also a conservation pioneer and co-founded with William Morris the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in 1877. Matthew Slocombe, Director of SPAB says, "Modest, practical and a pioneering

Some partnerships go down in history. Whether you prefer Laurel and Hardy or French and Saunders, there's no doubt that a strong double-act can be very powerful. Like Lennon and McCartney, Philip Webb and William Morris created a masterpiece at Red House, in Bexleyheath, in 1860. Webb was a prolific designer and innovative architect and is widely considered to be the father of the Arts and Crafts movement. But unlike his close friend, Morris, his name is relatively unknown.

This is all set to change, as this year, in the centenary of Webb's death, the National Trust is holding events at Red House and Standen in West Sussex, the only two remaining Webb houses open to the public. At Red House, the home that he designed for William Morris as a young man, you



Philip Webb © National Portrait Gallery

**Previous page** Standen and Red House (above) are renowned worldwide but their architect Philip Webb, kept a low profile. He and Morris were lifelong friends and Webb even designed Morris's tombstone. **Right** The dining room at Red House, complete with a table designed by Webb. His attention to detail is breathtaking.







conservationist, Philip Webb is my architectural hero. While Morris was the public voice of the emerging conservation movement, Webb was its engine. Webb was the straight man, Morris was the more affable figure. But Webb influenced generations of architects and designers and deserves to be a household name. We hope this centenary year will place his name firmly on the built heritage map."

## BOHEMIAN BEAUTY

Red House itself is an enchanting place to visit and hard to leave. It is easy to imagine Morris and his friends dining together or experimenting with paintings on walls and furniture. Today, when the paintings of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood grace posters and stationery, we forget how radical, shocking and sensual their work was to their contemporaries. Red House was a sanctuary, where Morris and his friends could explore traditional techniques and even recreate their lives through a medieval lens. In 'The Wedding Feast', a mural by Burne-Jones, William and Janey Morris are painted as Sir Degrevault and his bride Melydor, who were characters in a 15th century romance.

Burne-Jones called Red House 'the beautifullest place on earth' and the rooms give a unique insight into William Morris' earliest designs and decorative schemes. Its secrets are slowly being revealed, as conservation work in 2013 uncovered an unknown Pre-Raphaelite wall painting and a very early Morris repeating floral pattern. These original features and furniture by Morris and Philip Webb, stained glass and paintings by Burne-Jones, the bold architecture and a garden designed to 'clothe the house', add up to



## WEBB'S WIDE WORLD

Red House and Standen are holding events, workshops and exhibitions this year. For more details visit [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk). Standen is the focus of SPAB's Philip Webb Award which recognises design in an historic context. For more details go to [spab.org.uk](http://spab.org.uk)

a fascinating and rewarding place to visit. Children play in the gardens just as Morris's girls did, and there is a wonderful atmosphere of freedom in the air.

Although the house has been only in National Trust ownership for 10 years and previous owners have put their stamp on the place, it retains a unique feel. I found standing in William Morris's old bedroom both poignant and intimate. He lived at Red House for just five years before Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co, began. It was a crucible for some of Britain's most individual and distinct artists, makers and designers. There's still a feeling of warmth and playfulness in some of the rooms, and Morris' personal motto *Si Je Puis, (If I Can)* etched in the stained glass, touches the heart.

**Above** The landing and staircase at Red House has a fairytale feel, as if one is going up or down the steps to new adventures.

**Top left** Tessa Wild admires the delicate colours in the stained glass at Red House. Look out for graffiti in one window where visitors scratched their names. mementoes

It is easy to imagine Morris and his friends dining together at Red House or painting the furniture and walls



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Embrace a **CLASSIC COUNTRY** scheme for a summer style update and get the best buys for your traditional home with our favourite **VINTAGE SHOPPING** ideas. Dive into our round-up of **BEAUTIFUL BATHS** for a guaranteed sensational soak and sink into our **SUMPTUOUS SOFA** guide for the ultimate in luxury lounging. Plus, discover all you need to know about improving your cook zone with our **KITCHEN SPECIAL**



**A**s a nation of animal-lovers, nothing is too much when it comes to our pampered pooches and coddled cats. From diamond-encrusted collars to gourmet meals, we love to indulge our beloved pets. Now we can go one step further, thanks to the new collection of luxury dog beds and accessories from dog-loving royal, Princess Katalin zu Windischgraetz, who is related to Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. After a career as a fashion designer in New York for many years, the princess has combined her expertise with her devotion to dogs to launch a brand new business.

The idea for the range came about after Katalin created a few glamorous pieces for her own precious pets. Her friends soon asked her to make bespoke furniture to match their home décor and as demand grew, the idea for KZW Pet Interiors was born. The princess's impeccable taste is clearly evident in the range, which includes beds, cushions, toy boxes, blankets and bags.

***My favourite room is...***

the living room. Here, I can sit in my comfortable armchair which overlooks the terrace and my lovely garden and watch the dogs play around happily.

***The thing I like best about my house is...***

the functional layout of the bedroom, which gives direct access to the terrace and garden for me and my dogs. I also enjoy the way the winter sunlight comes in during the afternoon and warms up the living area.

***When I'm at home I enjoy...***

I love gardening - it helps me to disconnect from the week's work.

***My favourite thing to cook is...***

vegetarian potato casserole. It is a healthy and simple dish that reminds me of my childhood in Hungary. My family and friends love having it when they come to visit.



**Combine modern ideas with influences from the past for a striking statement**

***When I'm decorating a room I always...***

concentrate on the relationships and harmony of colours, which I believe is the key to a successful decoration job.

***The worst design disaster I've ever had was...***

when I had my house built in Marbella. The builders showed me a picture of a large bird engraved on a terrace wall which I really didn't like, but I didn't want to offend them and I hardly spoke any Spanish, so I just smiled in response. A couple of days later, the birds were engraved all around the wall of my terrace!

***My inspiration comes from...***

the great and lengthy history of interior design. I always try to combine modern ideas with influences from the past in my own interior schemes.

***My biggest style influence is...***

Viennese Art Deco style, because it fits easily into classic and contemporary schemes.

***I think the next interiors trend will be...***

rich room colours combined with classic, contemporary and eclectic ideas.

***The best advice I ever had was...***

don't forget that in business life, you are only a princess and the customers are the kings and queens.

***My motto is...***

why leave for tomorrow what can be done today? Something else might need your full attention tomorrow.



**The Austrian royal shares her style secrets and reveals her passion for luxury pet furniture**

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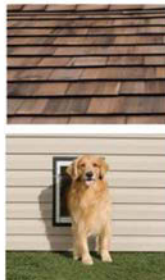
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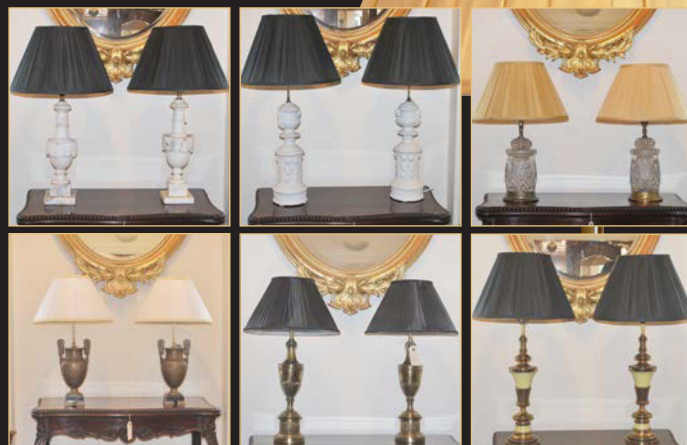
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**EDITOR'S CHOICE**

Rosalie side plate, £6, Marks & Spencer



Bolster cushion in Alcindo abstract blue, £39; Greenwich chair in Sherwood Cardinal, £739; Venice chair in Calista pale pink, £829, all Multiyork




St James pink stool, £125, One World Trading Company

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## MATERIAL world

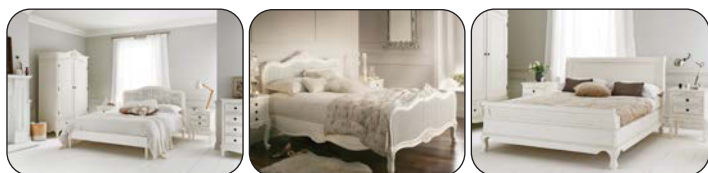
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# Boutique bedrooms

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If there's one room in the home that is worth parting with a few extra pennies for, it's the bedroom. We may spend the majority of our time in this space asleep, but in order to ensure that our slumber is restful, it's vital that every element in our bedroom is perfect. The value placed on a good night's sleep has risen dramatically in recent years, as research has shown that it can reduce the risk of health issues such as Alzheimers, heart disease and diabetes, help weight control and also improve your immune system's performance. With this in mind, we consulted top industry experts to share their secrets on creating a sumptuous sleeping space.

## BACK TO BASICS

The foundation of any bedroom is the bed base. Divans (which are still the most popular choice in the UK) are fitted on castors or legs to create space underneath them, making them ideal for storage. Another option is a

slatted base, which can be either rigid or flexible, depending on the type of wood. Slats are commonly used with bedsteads, of which there is a vast range of styles and materials available. Lock Stock and Barrel Furniture specialises in antique reproductions of four-poster, sleigh and French beds, offering a wide collection of hand-crafted solid mahogany and walnut beds. A traditional bedstead is a simple way to introduce timeless style into your interiors. French designs in particular ooze charm, thanks to intricate detailing and glamorous curved edges.

The next factor to consider is the mattress. We spoke with Adam Black, founder of high-quality mattress supplier Button & Sprung, to find out his top mattress buying tips. "I would always recommend a pocket sprung mattress over a single spring system. With a pocket sprung mattress, each spring operates independently of the next, which is particularly useful if you share a bed, as your

partner's tossing and turning won't disturb your slumber," he says. "A more expensive mattress will tend to have more springs and be made with a better quality filling, which means that the mattress will adapt itself to your body, creating the ideal environment for a more comfortable sleep."

## KEEPING COUNT

The final thing to think about is the bedding itself. This is the fun part, as you can play around with different colours and designs, complementing your scheme with a matching hue or choosing a contrasting shade or print to make a style statement. Christy, a name that is synonymous with luxury towels, also stocks a range of high-end bed linen, including a collection by leading British textile designer, Clarissa Hulse. Her quirky patterns are teamed with subtle shades, for striking bedding that will work with both traditional and modern décor.



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**1** Kinsale duvet set, £24.95, House of Bath. **0871 230 0867**, [houseofbath.co.uk](http://houseofbath.co.uk)

**2** Oval gilt mirror, £295; set of two vintage table lamps, £450; set of two antique side tables, £750; antique French king size bed with original cane, £2,250, all at Swans of Oakham. **01572 724 364**, [swansofoakham.co.uk](http://swansofoakham.co.uk)

**3** French Rococo bed in antique white, £645, Lock Stock and Barrel. **01531 633 333**, [lockstockandbarrel-uk.com](http://lockstockandbarrel-uk.com)

**4** Set of two pillowcases, £20; double duvet cover, £65, from Clarissa Hulse's Prairie in Tumeric collection at John Lewis. **0345 605 9049**, [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)

**5** Provence rattan bed, £499 for a double, Time4Sleep. **01484 500 560**, [time4sleep.co.uk](http://time4sleep.co.uk)

Before you buy any bed linen, check the thread count. Pick sheets with a count of between 280 and 400, as they will have a smooth, breathable feel and will also be less likely to shrink or wear. Even more important than keeping track of your threads, though, is the material itself. Egyptian cotton is the ultimate in luxury, proven by its use in top resorts around the world. Longer fibres, which are formed thanks to the nutrient-rich soil where the cotton plants are grown, mean that the fibre created is stronger, allowing it to be woven even finer, creating a softer, more lustrous finish than regular cotton.

By following this expert advice, there'll be no need to splash out on a five-star hotel to guarantee a glorious night's sleep. By ensuring that you carefully consider these three key factors before investing in new furniture or furnishings, you will create a lavish and serene sleeping space that you won't want to leave, giving you a splendid excuse to hit the snooze button one more time.



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# Go with THE FLOW

*How to make a statement  
in your new bathroom*



If you've set your sights on creating a new bathroom, you're probably envisaging an elegant, classical design. Ideally one which embraces the beauty of a bygone aesthetic to complement your house's architectural details, combined with a performance delivering all the blissful benefits of modern bathrooms. The secret to creating a dream design lies in choosing the right fittings within a well-considered decorative scheme. Follow these ideas for period practise.

Before you take the plunge into a bathroom project it pays to do a little research. Exploit Britain's rich heritage and take a few house tours, taking note of the details that catch your eye whilst absorbing the stately home style. Museums (try the Geffrye Museum, [geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://geffrye-museum.org.uk)) are also great places to inspire your bathroom project.

## FAITHFUL REPRODUCTION

Most manufacturers offer both traditional and contemporary collections so you won't have to hunt down authentic designs. Consider whether you want to faithfully reproduce, say, a Victorian style, or simply follow a classic look, in keeping with the surrounding architecture. There's plenty of architectural salvage yards if you're keen on original pieces (Lassco [lassco.co.uk](http://lassco.co.uk) is one of the best known) but this route does mean lots of legwork.

Start your search online to track down specific pieces before you take to the road. You



**Top** Kelly Hoppen's new collection for luxury brand, Apaier, is priced from £845 for a counter top basin and £6,172 for an oval bath. Laurence Pidgeon. **020 7610 6166**, [laurencepidgeon.com](http://laurencepidgeon.com)

**Above** Drummonds' Single Crake vanity basin with Arabescato marble, £4,500. Shown with House of Hackney's Flamboyance wallpaper. **020 7376 4499**, [drummonds-uk.com](http://drummonds-uk.com)

**Left** The Dory bath has a copper interior clad with teak, price on application, Hurlingham. **01400 263 310**, [hurlinghambaths.co.uk](http://hurlinghambaths.co.uk)





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Copper effect freestanding acrylic bath priced from £2,550, Heritage Bathrooms, 0844 701 8501, [heritagebathrooms.com](http://heritagebathrooms.com)

should also find a good plumber to install your reclaimed finds, bearing in mind that elements such as the WC cannot be easily moved in a bathroom and should also conform to modern building and water use regulations, so make sure you run your project past a professional. Choosing a classic collection from a bathroom specialist can be an easier option (if your budget allows) as you will be shown a plethora of design options and the team will plan and install your new bathroom avoiding any pitfalls.

Keep the design simple using natural authentic materials available when your home was built and set these against a fresh, clean palette, allowing the fittings to take centre stage. It's perfectly acceptable to mix old and new in a bathroom scheme to create an individual look but restrict choices to organic materials such as wood and stone or reclaimed pieces, avoiding modern synthetics that may jar with a lovely classic scheme.

## PRESERVE THE PAST

Make the most of any original features in the room ensuring they are preserved in the finished design. An original fireplace, for example, can set the tone for an entire scheme, creating a wonderfully welcoming focal point for your project. Most designers favour a soft, neutral backdrop for bathrooms – be it classic or contemporary – as it creates a calm, restful ambience that's perfect for bathing. This aesthetic also conjures up a feeling of space: choose crisp, white fittings, large-format tiles and lashings of glass to evoke a light, airy feel. If you want to mix up the look, a monochrome

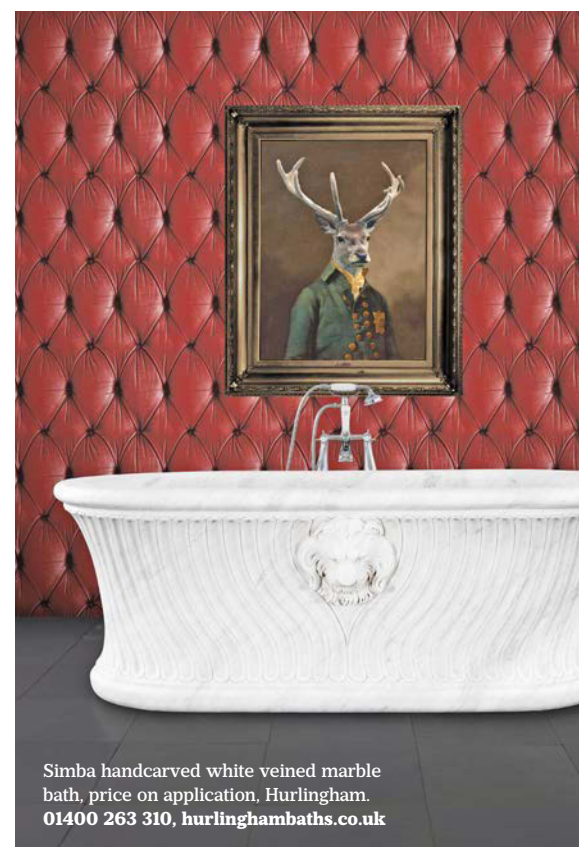
scheme adds an elegant element of colour.

While traditional ceramics with classical curves will be the backbone of your bathroom design, the details are the crowning glory of a classic scheme. Consider brassware – the taps and shower fittings – carefully. Selecting pieces from the same collection will help to create a cohesive look within a room and considering finishes other than chrome will inject a fresh design twist. Reclaimed fittings restore character and charm but you'll gain from choosing a traditional style from a modern collection benefitting from the watersaving features and the thermostatic temperature control.

Tiles can make or break a bathroom scheme – ceramic tiles are hard-wearing and easy clean – creating a feeling of spaciousness if you take large-scale formats from floor-to-walls. If you want to add colour or pattern into your scheme, it's simple to create design details over a basin or behind a shower with some stylish tiles. Roll-top baths are quintessentially classic and can be customised by painting the exterior in your choice of shade. Don't forget window treatments and heating choices. Timber window shutters are ideal for bathroom screening, while cast-iron radiators (weight permitting) and traditional towel rails are extra authentic touches.



Blenheim bathroom suite priced from £1,540, Heritage Bathrooms, 0844 701 8501, [heritagebathrooms.com](http://heritagebathrooms.com)



Simba handcarved white veined marble bath, price on application, Hurlingham, 01400 263 310, [hurlinghambaths.co.uk](http://hurlinghambaths.co.uk)



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### TIMBER TREAT

Exposed surfaces are perfect for creating a traditional farmhouse feel, which is why we love this stunning pared-back range from Maison. The dining chairs, £145 each, bench, £229 and dining table, £425, are all part of the Sienna collection. Call **020 8332 2337** or visit [maisonhomeinteriors.com](http://maisonhomeinteriors.com) for further details.



### FEET UP

Featuring pretty prints inspired by country living, the Country Pursuits range of footstools and cushions from Footstools & More is bursting with animal magic. All items are handmade in Yorkshire, call **0113 3457 526** or visit [footstoolsandmore.co.uk](http://footstoolsandmore.co.uk) for more information.



### TIME OUT

Channel the on-trend farmhouse style in your abode with this chunky wooden clock. Priced at £49, it will be a smart addition to any space. **0844 409 9834**, [atkinandthyme.co.uk](http://atkinandthyme.co.uk)

# COUNTRY CLASSICS

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This Bodine coffee table in mango wood is ideal for country-style homes. Its intricate waved trim and classic finish will bring a fresh feel to your interiors, complementing period décor perfectly. Priced at £249, you can buy this classic piece by calling **020 3137 2464**, or visiting [swooneditions.com](http://swooneditions.com)



### MAKE ROOM

This seasoned oak conservatory was designed and built by Richmond Oak Conservatories in the courtyard area of a stone farmhouse, creating a traditional and homely feel. **01323 442 255**, [oakconservatories.co.uk](http://oakconservatories.co.uk)



### PICTURE PERFECT

With seven different-sized apertures, you can display a variety of treasured photographs in this trendy multi-coloured photo frame from Melody Maison. Its painted wooden surface is ideal for achieving a chic rustic look and it is priced at £43.95. **01302 711 116**, [melodymaison.co.uk](http://melodymaison.co.uk)



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### BRIGHT SPELL

Let in the light with full height wooden shutters. With a smooth finish and adjustable panels, you can fill your home with a cooling breeze and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors with ease. These full height shutters in Wenge stain finish with a centred tilt rod and bi-fold system are available from Plantation Shutters by calling **020 8871 9222** or visiting [plantation-shutters.co.uk](http://plantation-shutters.co.uk)

## VINTAGE LUXE

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### TOP DRAWER

Embrace the styles of the past with this modern take on classic furniture. Boasting elegant curves and carved edges, this Townhouse vintage teal chest of drawers is perfect for making a storage style statement and is priced at £404 from Artisanti. For more information on the full range, call **0345 259 1410** or visit [artisanti.com](http://artisanti.com)



### BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

This pretty cushion from Dobbies, priced at £12.99, features a vintage-inspired floral print. Call **0131 561 6406** or visit [dobbies.com](http://dobbies.com) to find out more.



### COSY COVERS

Bring a lavish look into your home by layering rich tones with traditional patterns, such as this cross stitch floral printed double duvet set, £15, from Tesco. With a wide range of plush soft furnishings, your home will be brimming with comfort and style. Call **0800 323 4050** or visit [tesco.com/direct](http://tesco.com/direct) to take a peek.



### ART APPEAL

Enhance a room's scheme with gorgeous artwork from family-run online shop The Country Stile. With a vast selection of framed prints and canvases by popular artists, you can create a charming eclectic display in your abode. Pictured here, *Balance* by Catherine Stephenson, costs £35 and is one of two partner products, both available by calling **01507 525 871** or visiting [thecountrystile.co.uk](http://thecountrystile.co.uk)



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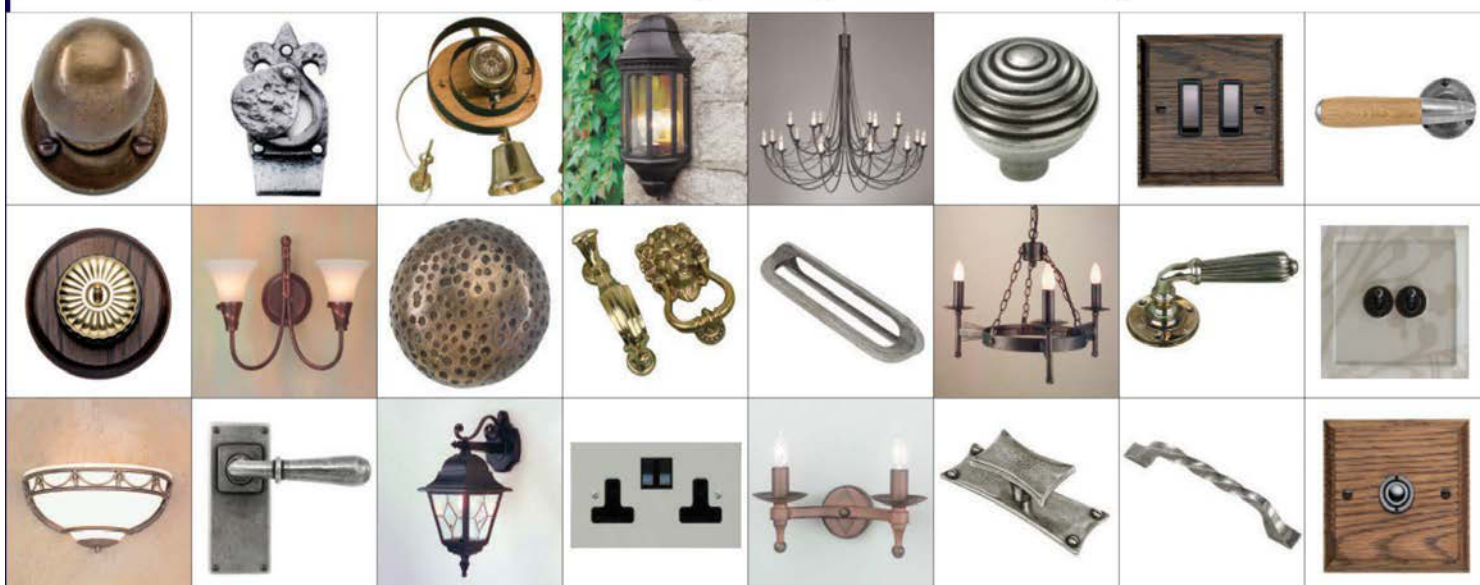
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## In the zone

*I have an open-plan living area, is it possible to use lighting to create different sections within the space?*

Most rooms consist of a number of small areas with different uses, and each one should have its own specific lighting. For instance, in a living area, turn a side table and armchair into a cosy reading nook by adding a table or standard lamp, to cast a pool of warm light downwards on your current read. Or, create an intimate feel at the dining table by hanging a dropped-pendant light over it. Forming zones with light will focus the purpose of a space, helping you to get more out of it.

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## Classic style

*I love those vintage-style light bulbs I see everywhere at the moment. How can I use them effectively in my home?*

Vintage light bulbs are a range of different shaped glass light bulbs designed to give the look and feel of the original Thomas Edison lamps. Many are handcrafted, with the tungsten filament wound by hand to give each lamp a unique look. These lamps are very popular, due to the warm glow they emit. Combine them with a simple industrial fitting to guarantee a relaxed and sophisticated atmosphere in any room.

**Gary Marsh, där Lighting**

01295 672 257, [darlighting.co.uk](http://darlighting.co.uk)



## Switch on

*I need to replace the light switches in my property. What will match its period style?*

We offer a great range of reproduction Bakelite switches, which would be ideal for a classic interior scheme, especially if you're not a fan of showy brass options. Inspired by designs from the 1920s, they come on classic oak pattresses to provide nostalgic appeal, while also meeting modern safety standards. You may need an adapter kit if you are fitting a switch onto an existing wall box - we offer one that fits to the wall box, which then allows the pattress to be fixed on using long screws.

**Jon Rawson, Bromleighs**  
01208 79490, [bromleighs.com](http://bromleighs.com)



## Let it glow

*Can I still create warm, atmospheric lighting if I use LED light bulbs?*

Yes, and you'll save electricity too! Many people worry that the move to energy efficient light bulbs will spell the end of the warm glow of soft lighting in their home, but this doesn't have to be the case. Use handmade glass shades with your LED bulbs to add a completely new dimension to your home. You can enhance the look and quality of your lighting even further by using some of the latest LED filament bulbs, which look absolutely stunning.

**Nigel Tyas, Nigel Tyas Ironwork**  
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**Anthony Dickens, Made by the Forge**  
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# Over the Rainbow

*Create an oasis in your outdoor space with zesty brights and playful patterns to set the scene for summer entertaining*





**Opposite** Fruit print and lime melamine, from £4; pineapple serveware, from £8; mini lanterns, £10; palm print chair pad, £15; resin flamingo, £30, all House of Fraser. **0345 602 1073, houseoffraser.co.uk**

**Right** Tropical Kitsch bedding, from £10, Dunelm Mill. **0345 165 6565, dunelm-mill.com**

**Below** Set of four melamine bowls, from £10; set of four melamine plates, from £12; set of four melamine cups, £12, all from the Beach Shack collection at BHS. **0344 411 6000, bhs.co.uk**



## Embrace an array of bright hues and zany prints to create a vibrant retreat in your back garden

**T**he shades are on, the sandals are out and the tempting tinkle of the ice cream van can be heard across the nation. It's official, summer is here. This is the ideal time to connect your home and garden, in order to form an extra space for hosting. Summer is the season of fun, which is why we're embracing bright hues and zany prints to create a happy place in our backyards.

Whether you enjoy long, lazy lunches or prefer the buzz of a busy barbecue, personalising your space ensures that you and your guests can enjoy al fresco dining experiences in comfort and style. This year, tropical tones and prints are dominating the world of gardens, transforming even the plainest patios with a blaze of colour and joy.

Channel the exciting vibe of the Mediterranean with bright oranges, greens and splashes of turquoise. Painting outdoor furniture, fences, or even pots is a simple way to create an extra room outdoors and breathe new life into a tired space. Or, for a quicker and less permanent solution (should you wish to switch to a more minimalist, pastel scheme next year) invest in new cushions and seating pads to brighten up your existing furniture. Think prints – clashing candy stripes, neon florals and fancy flamingos are just a few of our favourite picks.

When it comes to the furniture itself, choose low-maintenance steel or wrought-iron pieces. There is a huge variety of coloured options available, or you can customise a set

yourself with a lick of paint. Just ensure it's weather-resistant, that way your table and chairs will last for many garden parties to come. If traditional wooden furniture is more your cup of tea (or should that be iced tea?) then jazz it up with a tinted wood stain, or a printed tablecloth.

Once the scene has been set, it's time to focus on the final flourishes. Melamine dinnerware is a sturdy and stylish choice, as it is light-weight, chip-resistant and dishwasher-friendly. Plus, it comes in a multitude of appealing colours and designs. Finally, don't forget to enhance your outdoor space with strings of pretty coloured lights, to illuminate your al fresco entertaining and allow it to continue long into the balmy night.





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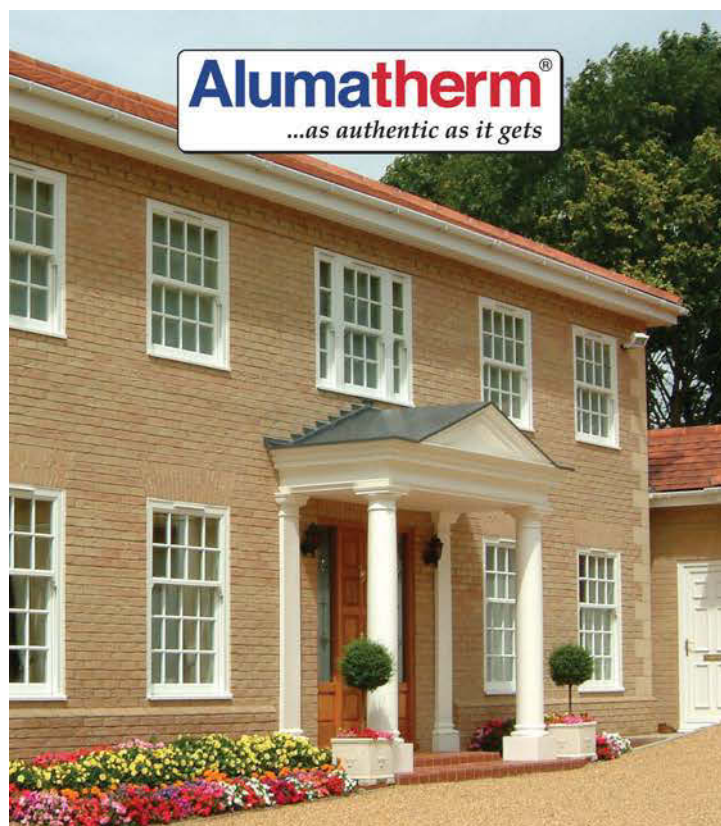
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# COLOUR YOUR SUMMER

*It's not just what's inside that counts when it comes to your sofa, as Seoana Sherry-Brennan discovers*

**T**he kitchen has held the undisputed title of 'heart of the home' for decades, but thanks to a change in our lifestyle habits, there is now a new contender for this honour. As we devote more time to relaxation and entertainment, the living room has become the space we occupy the most. Consequently, the sofa is now the most important piece of furniture in the home. Summer provides the perfect opportunity to give interiors a refresh and invigorate tired schemes, making it the ideal moment to overhaul your sofa too, creating a brand new focal point that is as striking as it is snug.

## CLEAR IDEA

This season has seen many top sofa companies rework classic designs, giving them a contemporary twist using bright colours and bold patterns. If you want to stick to a traditional theme that matches your period décor and shows off your personality too, this is the way to do it. But before you commit to a significant investment, do your research. Whether this consists of flicking through magazines or scrolling through Pinterest, gather inspiration to help make your decision. The key to finding what is right for you is to have a clear idea of what you want and to

communicate it to a specialist, such as The Handmade Sofa Company (01258 841 414, [handmadesofacompany.co.uk](http://handmadesofacompany.co.uk)). It stocks a huge range of seating options, from corner sofas and chesterfields, to chaise longues and footstools, all of which are made-to-order in any fabric or leather. There is also a bespoke option available, so you don't have to compromise on size, colour or cushion filling if there aren't the exact specifications you want among its huge range.

## MATERIAL WORLD

Once you've made a design decision, start to consider what you would like your new sofa to be made of. Take your lifestyle into consideration – for instance, if you have pets or young grandchildren around, you don't want a fabric that marks easily. Leather is an excellent choice, as it is soft, flexible and resistant to cracks, tears and

most stains. Sofas by Saxon is an authority on luxury leather furniture, having hand-crafted beautiful products in its Lancashire workshop for over 30 years. Offering a wide range of sofas, corner sofas, sofa beds and chairs in both traditional and contemporary designs, as well as over 80 different leather colours and styles, you will have plenty of striking options to pick from.

Once you've chosen your new couch, it may be necessary to give the rest of the room a few style tweaks. Keep the rest of the décor neutral to make the colour sing and ensure that your scheme isn't too overwhelming – this is meant to be a space for relaxation, after all. To guarantee your new purchase instantly becomes a part of the room, tie it in with a few carefully chosen accessories in the same hue. A piece of artwork or a jazzy rug will help to pull the scheme together and make your sofa feel like part of the furniture.



Crystal chesterfield sofa in Windsor red with Swarovski crystal buttons, £1,536, Chesterfields Direct. **01706 853 636**, [chesterfieldsdirect.co.uk](http://chesterfieldsdirect.co.uk)





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# CUPBOARD *love*

*How to source the kitchen of your dreams with Susan Dickerson*

Choosing a kitchen is like getting married – a big commitment and something which you want to get right first time. Your kitchen is going to share your life to come so it needs to be adaptable, dependable and scrub up well, too. The first step is to look at what you’ve already got and be honest about what you like and dislike about it.

You also need to consider how much budget you have available and decide how much disruption you are prepared to live with. For instance, if you are happy with your existing layout, then choosing some new bespoke Shaker doors can certainly refresh the hub quickly and with minimum inconvenience. It is just a question of working with a specialist such as the team at [shaker2go.co.uk](http://shaker2go.co.uk). Ask yourself if it is absolutely necessary to move the wet area, for example, or would you simply prefer a different type of

sink? Consider brassware which is a pleasure to operate and control and make sure that sinks are set at a comfortable height for all the family to use.

The best advice I’ve ever had from a kitchen designer was to think about where to put the kettle, as I would be using this the most every day so it needed to be in a pleasant spot. We can get so caught up in discussions on topics such as underfloor heating in the kitchen or feel overwhelmed by the options available in just one aspect of the design, that we may forget that it is meant to be a place to be enjoyed.

Remember that despite the seductive appeal of sleek cabinetry and shiny appliances, the classic kitchen is the hardest-working room in the house. It is a roundabout in the family home, constantly handling movement and change, a hub of creation as meals are prepared and savoured. So whether



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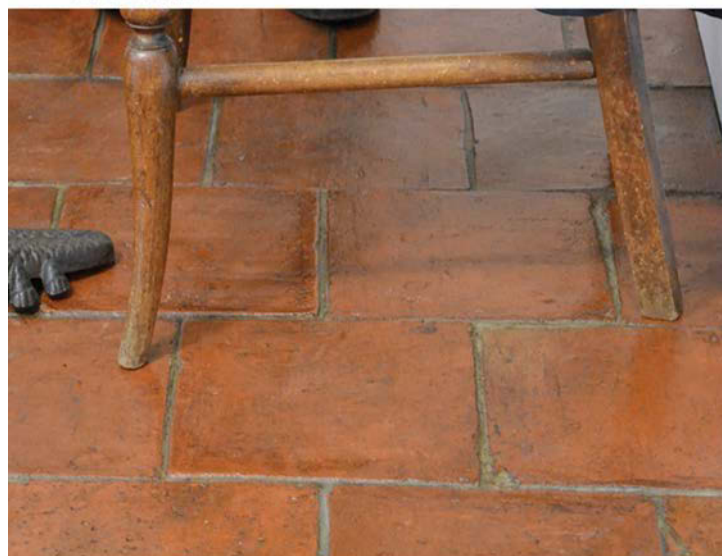
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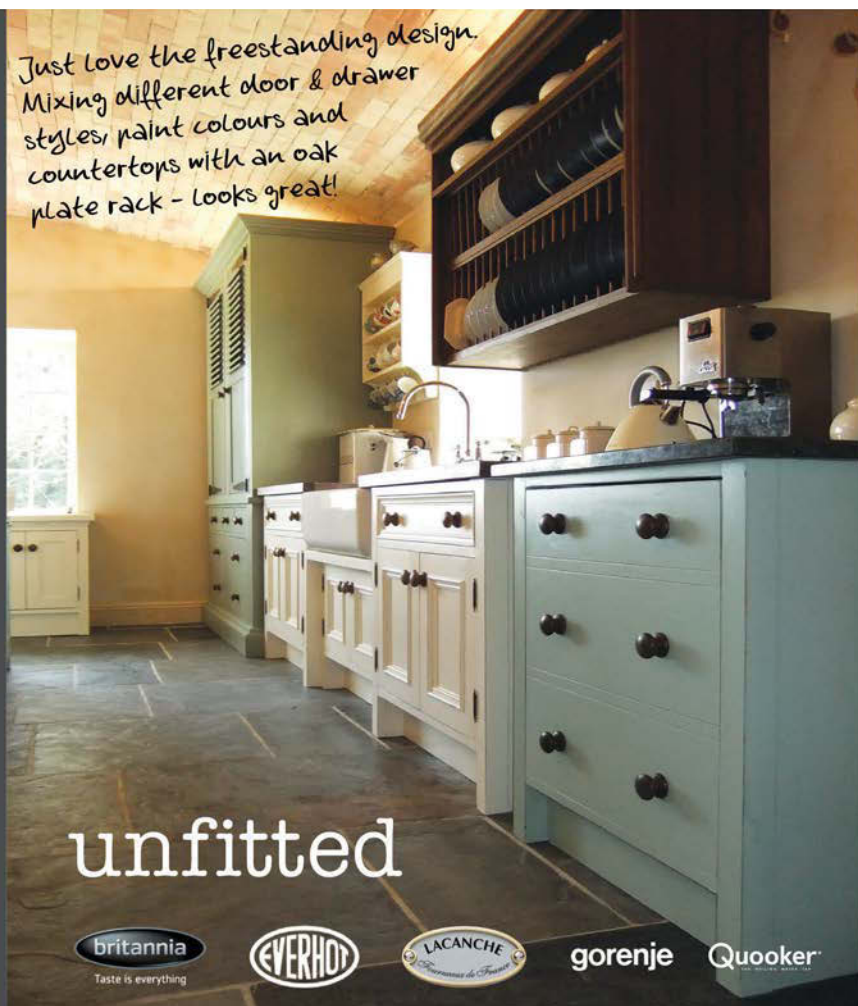
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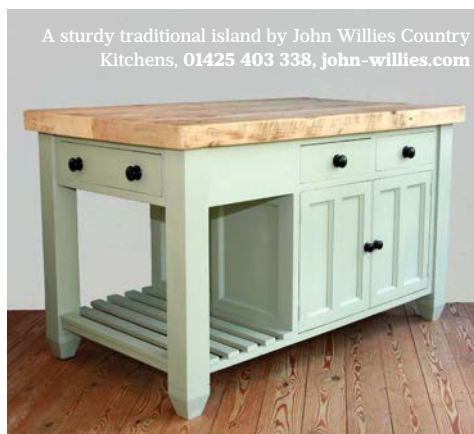
you favour the simple lines of a Shaker kitchen or the higgledy-piggledy charm of a freestanding look, be practical.

Given that a kitchen is such a multi-purpose environment, you really need to be clear about how much storage you will need, especially if you like to entertain at home. A larder cupboard will hold all your food, so it is easy to see what you have without having to check lots of units before writing your shopping list. Just as we sometimes buy things which we already have when our wardrobes are disorganised, we often overbuy groceries if we can't see what we've already got easily.

Key looks for a period property are Shaker-style units, farmhouse chic and painted cabinetry but there is always scope to bring something contemporary into the mix. Inspiration is everywhere, so think about colours and textures you already love and appliances which would make your life easier when gathering your kitchen wishlist.



Harvey Jones offers an inspiring range of classic contemporary kitchens. 0800 389 6938, [harveyjones.com](http://harveyjones.com)



A sturdy traditional island by John Willies Country Kitchens, 01425 403 338, [john-willies.com](http://john-willies.com)

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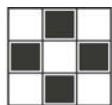
**Right** Terroir pine chair, priced £310 a pair.

**Below** Zinc top kitchen table, priced £495

**Bottom** Provence oval chicken wire basket, large, £18.75







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# Take the RIGHT STEPS

*The reasons why you  
need to pay attention to  
your kitchen flooring*

**A**dmit it. When you dream of your next kitchen, it's the appliances and the cabinetry which really float your boat isn't it? Perhaps you are keen to treat the family to an American-style fridge freezer or are trying to work out if there is room for a range cooker. But before you set your heart on statement pieces, it's essential to lay the right foundations for your room.

Flooring can make or break a space, to the extent that some interior designers consider it the fifth or sixth wall, bizarre as that may sound. Your flooring needs to be practical and hardwearing and it will also set the tone for the overall scheme. So don't rush, take the time to weigh up your options and a stunning floor could have a starring role in your new designer kitchen.

Many of us instantly think of stone floors when it comes to kitchens, and there's a good reason for this. This natural material can cope with all the scuffs, scratches and spills that a busy kitchen will endure, and there's a huge choice in the type of stone available. So you can pick something that visually stands out, or a design that will take a back seat and let other elements take the spotlight. It's a tough material, but its natural look means that it can fit seamlessly into most schemes.



1 Buscot Limestone in  
a seasoned finish, £71 m<sup>2</sup>.  
Artisan of Devizes. 01380 720  
007, [artisansofdevizes.com](http://artisansofdevizes.com)

## WARM FRONT

Before you start, however, consider underfloor heating. Stone flooring may be delightfully cool in the warmer months, but come the winter it can bring an unwanted chill beneath your feet. Insulating below your underfloor heating system will help to prevent downward heat loss, so that it is pushed into the room above, which is where you want the heat. Stone is a great conductor of heat too, so this combination can be a very efficient way to heat a room. If your kitchen leads out into the garden, consider using a stone floor that flows from indoors to outside.

Most stone floors are relatively easy to maintain, so whatever style, tone and size tiles you want, you shouldn't need to compromise. The stone should be sealed for protection but always check with your supplier as every few years it may need to be resealed depending on circumstances such as how porous it is (limestone, for instance, can be very porous). Otherwise you shouldn't need to do more than give it a quick daily brush and the occasional



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The kitchen is often said to be the hub of the home, with tiles still being considered one of the most versatile and practical choice for floor and wall décor. But what's your style?

Originating in places such as Morocco and with added inspiration from the Victorian era, patterned tiles have made a huge comeback! Vintage & Patterned tiles are a great way to create a statement in your kitchen, with patchwork styles creating an edgy or bohemian look. So why not inject some colour or geometry into your kitchen with a patterned tile, and create a focal point be it wall or floor, or both!

Wood effect tiles are also proving very popular in kitchens and bathrooms across the country. Why? Maybe it's because they are practical, beautiful, hardwearing and cost effective – with none of the maintenance that comes with real wood! Emulating looks such as reclaimed, driftwood and even traditional parquet flooring, wood effect tiles can give any space a warm and homely feel with all the practicalities of a porcelain tile.

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**3** New Forest wood effect tile, 20 x 90.5cm, priced around £29 per m<sup>2</sup>, Tons of Tiles. **01752 785 623**, [tonsoftiles.co.uk](http://tonsoftiles.co.uk)

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**5** Mendip Stone tiles with a variegated finish, 40 x 80cm, priced from £58.15 per m<sup>2</sup>, Marlborough Tiles. **01672 512 422**, [marlboroughtiles.com](http://marlboroughtiles.com)



clean with detergent to look after it. But again, be sure to check you have the right cleaning product as some can be too harsh and damage the stone.

### WOODEN WONDER

A common misconception about kitchen flooring is that you should avoid timber options. Admittedly, they may require a little extra effort to protect from moisture and spillages, but that shouldn't deter you in the slightest. Remember that as long as the wood is treated with an appropriate finish, it can be a versatile choice that adds plenty of natural charm to your scheme. Wooden flooring can be used to in conjunction with underfloor

heating but you need to make sure that the warmth won't warp the boards. Most experts agree that engineered boards are better suited than natural planks if you are considering installing underfloor heating.

In terms of design, you don't have to stick to simple straight lines. In fact, the trend is to go for something far more extravagant. Parquet flooring isn't just for hallways and living rooms, as Sara Cox, a specialist at Parquet Parquet knows well.

"It is always best to fill in the small gaps between the parquet blocks in a kitchen area so if there are any spillages they will stay on

the surface," she says. "You can finish your blocks with a hardwax oil but lacquers are more water-repellent and easier to lightly sponge clean. Hardwax oil is more user-friendly however and can be 'topped-up' annually if required.

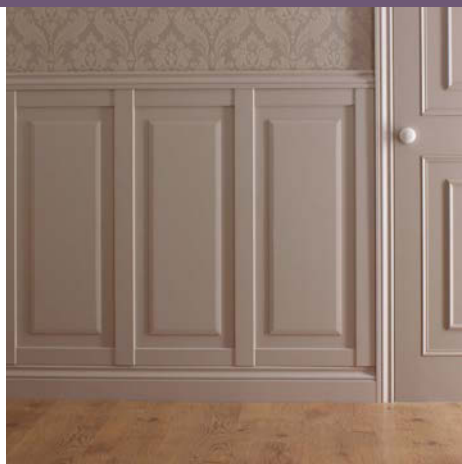
"The area by the sink always wears out first in terms of hardwax oil or lacquer for obvious reasons, so it may be advisable to put an extra coat on in the first place. If possible, have your washing machine in the utility room so if by chance there is ever a major leak it is not where your parquet floor is." For more information head to [parquet-parquet.co.uk](http://parquet-parquet.co.uk)





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# FINE DETAILS

*Seoana Sherry-Brennan chats with Finepanel's director Graham Kett to learn more about its exceptional interior wall panelling service*

One of the greatest pleasures that comes with owning a period property is the array of exquisite original features and details within it. From traditional coving to striking parquet flooring, these authentic elements are highly coveted. If you're not fortunate enough to live in such a house, you can bring an element of this sought-after style into your abode with wall panelling from Finepanel.

Dado height panels were traditionally fitted in hallways, living and dining rooms, with taller panels lining corridors. Panels just above or below door height could be found in drawing rooms, libraries and reception areas, often with a book or plate shelf set above them, whilst luxury full-height panelling was reserved for the grandest of spaces.

Panelling has always been a prestigious interior feature – and with good reason – as until now, it has been both expensive to make and time-consuming to install. Thankfully for homeowners looking to add this stylish element to their interiors, Finepanel's director, Graham Kett, has drawn upon his furniture and shop-fitting experience to create a new and innovative way for anyone to achieve a traditional panelled appearance quickly, easily and affordably.

## COVER ALL BASES

In order to add period-style panelling to a property, existing skirting usually has to be replaced, which can be messy, time-consuming and expensive. However, there is no need to take on this laborious task as Finepanel's designs are thin enough to fit above existing and new skirting. We know that no walls, particularly those in older properties, are entirely even and stripping them back to bare plaster can be a real chore, but Finepanel's

**Finepanel's range of stylish products allow anyone to achieve a traditional panelled appearance in their home**





Above Finepanel's range of moisture-resistant panels is suitable for use in bathrooms and kitchens.



Above Finepanel's director, Graham Kett, has drawn upon his vast experience to allow anyone to achieve traditional panelling.



6mm, moisture-resistant MDF back panels can be used to cover all kinds of wall surface. Thin, durable and easy to paint, their profiled vertical and horizontal trims create an authentic high relief panel.

Another benefit of Finepanel's superior products is the ease of installation. Fitting them only requires basic DIY skills and a few key tools, so it is easy for anyone to achieve a professional result without any specialist knowledge. The process begins by gluing and pinning a whole panel to the wall, then subsequent panels are simply linked together to cover the heads of any fixings, which creates a seamless run of panelling with no gaps or fixing holes to fill. Then it's just a case of trimming the final panel to size and adding an end trim to complete the pattern.

## SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Whatever the design era of your home, you'll find a Finepanel product to suit it, with nine styles, six heights and two widths to choose from. All finepanels are moisture-resistant, making them suitable for use in bathrooms and kitchens, while single runs of taller panels are ideal for creating a chic feature wall. Included in the price of all of Finepanel's ranges is white priming, which seals the top surface of each panel ready for the top colour of your choice.

The company has recently introduced 585mm wide panels, which are particularly well suited to longer panel runs in larger rooms. And, with less of them to fit, installation is even quicker. Its new range

of fielded panels is also receiving plenty of attention, thanks to a combination of MDF panelling and mitred softwood mouldings, which creates an authentic appearance at a fraction of the time and cost of bespoke. You can also check the price of panelling using Finepanel's easy-to-use online calculator.

With over 10,000 panels already sold, more and more people are discovering that adding traditional character to their home is quicker, easier and better value than ever before, thanks to the outstanding products at Finepanel.



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# Sitting pretty

Use this easy sewing method to create stylish seat covers for an instant interiors update

If you're looking to revamp your dining room without a serious décor overhaul, these button-on dining chair covers are the perfect quick fix for your home. Taken from Caroline Zoob's *The Hand-Stitched Home*, these elegant slip covers are ideal for softening the look of plain wooden chairs, while bringing some fresh design detail to your eating space. Whether you have a special occasion coming up or just fancy a more formal feel, these chic covers are sure to spruce up your dining set.

The antique linen used here is bursting with charm for a traditional trend update, or you can opt for a brighter fabric for a modern twist on this classic make. Ensure any material you choose is robust enough for regular washing and ironing, with sufficient weight to hang well and endure regular use. You can decorate the skirt with embroidery to enhance your handiwork, choosing shades to match the character of your chairs, such as the grey-green and blackberry-wine threads used here to complement the antique Swedish desk chair.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- Fabric
- Threads
- Paper (to make a pattern)
- Four buttons
- Templates

#### STITCHES USED:

- Slip stitch
- Split stitch
- Stem stitch

#### BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

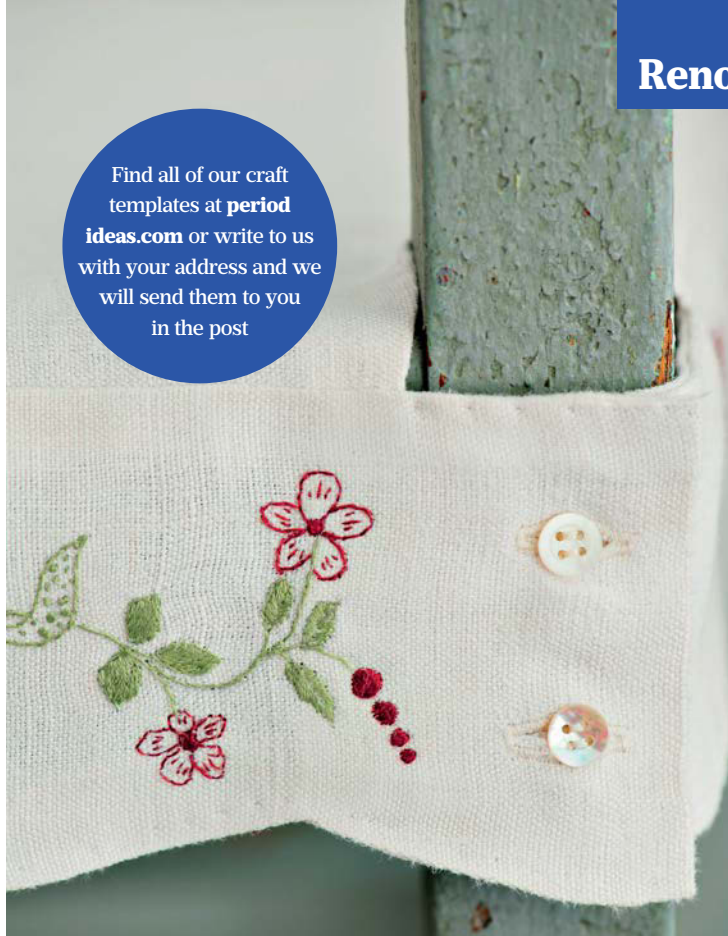
When you are fitting an embroidery to something which requires a degree of precision in the layout, it is useful to make paper templates and draw the design in full to make sure that it fits. This design was drawn out and then lightly transferred to the linen using a very soft pencil tracing. You don't want to later find that you have reached the corner and run out of space for the design.



Taken from *The Hand-Stitched Home* by Caroline Zoob with photography by Caroline Arber (£20, Jacqui Small).



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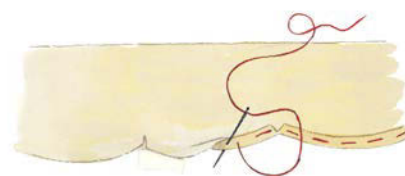
## INSPIRED BY ANTIQUE LACE

The embroidery in this design was derived from the pattern in a lace collar. It has been simplified in places, but the central motif of the three fruits is the same. This shows how lace is, in fact, a form of embroidery and a good source of inspiration for your own designs.

For extra rustic charm, give your chairs a quick sanding to create a distressed, shabby-chic finish



## MEASURE THE CHAIR



## STITCH THE HEMS



## MAKE BUTTONHOLES

**1** Cut a paper pattern of your chair seat and use the pattern to trim your chosen fabric, adding a 1cm seam allowance all the way around. For the skirt, measure the length around the front and sides of the chair, including the cut out for the leg. Add 4cm for the buttonhole overlap on the sides and a 1cm seam allowance all the way around. For the depth, allow 7cm to the narrowest part of the skirt and create paper patterns using the scallop template. Repeat this process to make a pattern for the back of the skirt, then cut the pieces out in your chosen fabric.

**2** Iron the edge of the skirt, cutting a notch into the scallop. Turn under the hem on the scalloped edge twice, baste and slip stitch the hem.

**3** Pin, baste and machine stitch the skirt pieces to the seat piece, right sides together. Turn under twice and slip stitch the remaining hems. Embroider the back of the skirt in double thread, the leaves in single-thread split stitch and vary the sides using single-thread stem stitch and no fills.

**4** Place the cover on the chair and mark the buttons and buttonholes. Make two buttonholes on each of the overlaps and sew the buttons in place.



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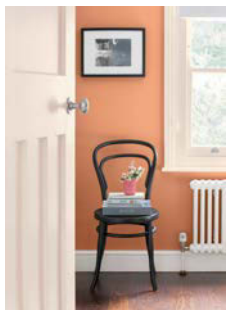
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This month, MY-Furniture shares its hints for a stylish mirror makeover. Check out our blog for decorating guides and advice for your home.







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# HOT TOPIC

*Susan Dickerson reveals the history behind the fireplace*

**T**he hearth has been the centre of the home for millenia. Although we may no longer worship our household deities there as the Greeks and Romans once did, we still regard it as a key feature in a room and enjoy the fizz and crackle of a real fire on a winter's evening.

An original fireplace in your property provides a wonderful connection with the past, just imagine the families who have shared stories around the fireside and cooked there. Unwanted letters and other personal documents were often consigned to the flames along with wood and lumps of coal, so your hearth has probably harboured all manner of secrets over the years!

In medieval and Tudor times, fireplaces and chimneys were considered status symbols as well as being the latest technology. Housing designs were in transition at this time and we should applaud our ancestors' courage as it is easy to forget that most of the housing stock until the 18th century was thatch and wood.

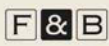
## BRIGHT SPARKS

The high ceilings in old houses were intended to keep the sparks of the fire away from the thatch and it took trial and error before architects established how best to build two-storey houses which maximised the best yet minimised smoke and draughts from the fire. The mantelpiece or chimneypiece originated


in the Middle Ages. It began life as a hood over the grate to catch smoke but the term has since evolved to encompass all the decorative framework around the fireplace, such as the jambs, mantel shelf and over-mantel mirrors.

Once the country house developed, the oak panelled rooms were dominated by stunning wooden over-mantels. We can still admire this incredible craftsmanship in the intricately carved coats of arms and fine details which form what we would now call a feature wall. Fashions in fireplaces were dictated by leading architects, from Inigo Jones, who brought French and Italian influences to England, to Christopher Wren, who developed what became known as Queen Anne style.



  
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**Above** York fireplace, around £1,434, from English Fireplaces. **01730 887 177, englishfireplaces.co.uk**

**Right** Belgrave square chairs in Mystic Oyster, £795, and Tessalate Raven, £975, from Parker Knoll. **01773 604 121, parkerknoll.co.uk**

**Left** Regent mantel in limestone with an Oxford steel panel and gas fire, EPOA, at Stone and Fire. **01243 373 300, stoneandfire.co.uk**

**Right** The convector Ultra HE is a superb new generation gas fire from Nu-Flame. **020 8254 6802, nu-flame.co.uk**



## RING THE CHANGES

In the Georgian era, fashions swung from plain to extravagant, with Gothic versions developing from rococo continental styles. The novelist Horace Walpole commissioned two fireplaces at his new house, Strawberry Hill, in Twickenham which were based on tombs in Westminster Abbey, showing that drawing from eclectic influences is nothing new in interior design.

Towards the end of the period, the work of Robert Adam came to the fore and he is considered one of the greatest designers of all time. His studies in Italy in the 1750s, were dominated by the evacuation of Herculaneum, a city that had been buried in 79AD. The Roman decoration inspired his designs and he

was keen to link the chimney piece to other features in the room using colours such as pale green, blue, pink, yellow and deep red.

The Victorian era ushered in mass-produced cast iron fireplaces in a dizzying range of styles and arched versions became popular instead of the rectangular pieces which had set the tone since Inigo Jones's era.

Grates were relatively small, with plenty of heat being generated by radiation from the polished metal. By the early 20th century the first gas fires were installed and over the years, as our heating options developed, we began to take fireplaces for granted. Dressing a neglected fireplace can bring real character to a room so consider turning it into a display area for flowers and pictures or fill it with books.




## PIPING HOT

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## Listed lovely

*I need to replace doors and windows in a listed property. Where do I begin?*

First of all, you need to find a specialist with experience in this area with a good reputation. Always ask about the previous work they have done and find out exactly what was involved. For example, we at GBS Joinery were asked to supply some new double-glazed sliding sash windows in a Georgian terrace. As part of the project, we liaised with the conservation officer and helped our client by providing drawings showing the style and the all-important Georgian bar detail. We also replaced the front entrance door and frame as a previous owner had installed a standard and inappropriate door. Fortunately the original style could be found in a neighbouring property and we could replicate it perfectly. Happily the house now blends into the terrace as it should.

**Nigel Hockin, GBS Joinery**  
0161 456 0501, [gbsjoinery.co.uk](http://gbsjoinery.co.uk)

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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*This month our experts solve all your dilemmas about windows and doors*



## Wake up call

*My windows look tired. Do they have to be replaced or can I have them refurbished?*

Over the years, pollution, weather and general use can make timber windows become old and tired looking. Thankfully, restoring them to their former glory doesn't necessarily mean you have to replace them entirely. If the timber is sound, our draught sealing and overhaul service could be for you. This entails draught sealing the window, replacing the cord and weights and installing new ironmongery. If, however, the timber is found to need replacing, the sliding sash can be replaced, keeping the existing frame, with an addition which is sympathetic to your existing windows.

**Richard Dollar, The Sash Window Workshop**  
01344 868 668, [sashwindow.com](http://sashwindow.com)

## Georgian joy

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01778 347 147, [alumathermwindows.co.uk](http://alumathermwindows.co.uk)




## Glass act

*What type of glass should I choose for a roof lantern?*


Glass should be selected for the lantern depending on shading, position of the roof to the sun and the room's use. If your roof is exposed to full sun, then a roof lantern with a solar controlled glass may be required. But if your lantern position will be sheltered from excessive sunlight, then a clear glass without the solar control would be better. Glass with solar control properties will help regulate temperature gain and loss, and going without it may affect the function of a room below. You would also need to consider a solar control's tint effect on natural light as well as the efficiency of the glass.

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A small selection from our Architectural Ironmongery Catalogue, available on request









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## Open door policy

*Please can you give me some tips on buying front door furniture?*

Try to choose ironmongery in a finish that complements the colour of your front door, as well as the overall exterior style of your home. Co-ordinate the elements as much as possible, including smaller items such as door bells, key escutcheons and numbers. Plated finishes, such as chrome or nickel, are often more durable than brass when fitted outside. Don't forget security. A front door should have at least one (ideally two) insurance-approved locks fitted to it. Most commonly this would be a 5 lever deadlock conforming to British Standard BS3621. Fitting a spy hole and door chain/limiter is also a good idea. Letter plates come in many shapes and sizes. Try not to go too small as the postman may have to force larger items of mail through it. Too large and you have more of a security risk.

**Rahul Daryanani, Danico Brass**  
020 7483 4477, [danico.co.uk](http://danico.co.uk)

## Sash solution

*I love my sash windows but it feels very draughty in my bedroom. What do you advise?*

Draught proofing your windows is the solution. Unlike the windows we manufacture today, period sash windows have no draught seals. This leads to draughts, rattles and poor energy efficiency. We can eliminate these problems by installing effective draught seals to the sashes (the opening part of the window). Also, replacing the staff and parting beading, again incorporating draught seals, we can seal the entire perimeter of the window. This really is a very effective upgrade for period sash windows. The windows will be smoother in operation and draught free, which means a much warmer room and lower energy bills. None of these alterations will change the aesthetic appearance of your windows. Draught proofing and servicing will bring a new lease of life to any sash window at a fraction of the cost of replacement.

**Andrew Beard-Green, Boxwood Windows** 01427 787 825, [boxwoodwindows.co.uk](http://boxwoodwindows.co.uk)



## Hold tight

*I'm looking for some stylish window fasteners. Any ideas?*

Never take short cuts when it comes to window furniture, as you are investing in equipment which you may use several times a day for years. Look for something with a simple design which is easy for everyone in your household to operate and will feel comfortable to the touch. Our new bulbend casement fasteners might be just the ticket for you. We have two new versions, a standard (FB103) and an offset (FB104) which are available in four different finishes and are designed to match our new bulb end casement stays.

**Robin Graham, Fulton & Bray**  
[fultonandbray.co.uk](http://fultonandbray.co.uk), 01228 672 900

## Window dressing

*What is the difference between types of shutters?*

Plantation shutters give you complete control of the amount of sunlight you wish to enter your room. This allows mood, temperature, light and privacy to be adjusted to meet your needs. Window shutters consist of individual panels with louvres (horizontal slats in each panel) that can be individually controlled. By adding a horizontal shutter privacy bar (mid-rail), one can separate these panels into two further independently controlled sections. By operating a tilt rod or wooden shutters louvre you can control each individual panel to suit yourself. Solid wood panel shutters offer a more traditional look. The solid panels can either be opened or closed to let light in or block it out, as opposed to a mix of both light and privacy options that the plantation shutter styles offer.

**Val Gosetto, Bella Vista Shutters**  
0845 094 4264, [bellavistashutters.co.uk](http://bellavistashutters.co.uk)





## HOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST EDITOR'S CHOICE

*Make the most of your abode with our selection of products, ideas and expert advice*



### SEE THE LIGHT

Original period windows look gorgeous, but can be awkward shapes and sizes. Shutters, which can be made to fit windows of any proportion, are a good way to accentuate these features. Hillarys has a wide range of shutters, including a waterproof option, which is perfect for bathrooms. Prices start from £278 per m<sup>2</sup>, call **0800 916 6516** or head to **hillarys.co.uk** for more details.

### CHALK IT UP

Revive tired furniture with Rustins Quick Dry Chalky Finish paint. You can use it over most previously painted pieces for a velvety flat matt finish, or create a shabby chic look by lightly sanding down your furniture after applying a couple of coats. It's available in cream, grey and white, call **020 8450 4666** or visit **rustins.eu** for more information.



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**en.dawanda.com**



Sailing boats mug,  
£10, Sophie Allport  
**0845 0177 866,**  
**sophieallport.com**

### ALFRESCO ADVENTURES

Make the most of the warm weather by investing in a stylish summerhouse. HSP Garden Buildings stocks a huge range, including this elegant octagonal Lavenham design, which is inspired by classic Victorian architecture. There is also the option to have double-glazing and insulation installed, so you can enjoy your structure all year round. For further details call **01638 583 814** or head to **hspgardenbuildings.com**







### DRINK UP

Add a touch of the tropics to your next BBQ with these vibrant melamine cups. Featuring an eye-catching vintage bird print, they're dishwasher-safe and tough, making them the ideal drinking vessel for outdoor feasts. Priced £7.50 each, The Oak Room. **01992 501 040**, [oakroomshop.co.uk](http://oakroomshop.co.uk)



### AUTHENTIC STYLE

Norfolk Reclaim specialises in industrial furniture and bespoke items, which are made on site from pre-loved materials. It also supplies bricks, tiles, architectural items, garden statuary, original oak beams, reclaimed flooring and much more, for your next project. **01328 864 743**, [norfolkreclaim.co.uk](http://norfolkreclaim.co.uk)

### FLOOR IT

When it comes to flooring, durability is crucial, which is why we love natural flooring. As well as being incredibly hard-wearing, its neutral tones complement both classic and contemporary schemes, bringing character and texture to any space. Discover a great range of natural flooring, including sisal, seagrass, coir and jute at J Hayden Carpets. **01424 431 809**, [haydencarpets.org.uk](http://haydencarpets.org.uk)



### CLAY TIME

Make a striking statement in your home by using traditional Staffordshire clay roof tiles from Dreadnought Tiles. These naturally burnt tiles come in a subtle array of warm colour variations that develop and improve with age, for a roof with true character. **01384 77405**, [dreadnought-tiles.co.uk](http://dreadnought-tiles.co.uk)

### BUDDY BRILLIANT

Display your favourite seasonal blooms in this stunning hand-made bud vase. Formed from a single piece of glass, the dazzling blue hue will look stunning in any room. Priced at £13.95, Annabel James. **0845 548 0210**, [annabeljames.co.uk](http://annabeljames.co.uk)



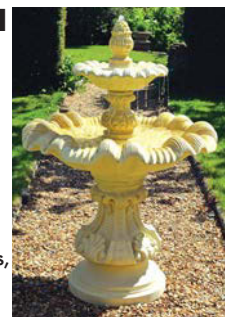
### NATURAL INSPIRATION

The Chair People makes and supplies bespoke designer seating options. These two pieces are from Abraham Moon & Sons' Dales collection, which is inspired by the Yorkshire Dales, and boasts a luxurious 100% wool finish. **01952 585 820**, [thechairpeople.co.uk](http://thechairpeople.co.uk)



### MAKE A SPLASH

Enhance your garden with the new self-circulating Napoli Fountain from Haddonstone. The classic design is ideal for creating a focal point outside. Discover a variety of fountains, planters, sundials, statues, balustrades, follies and fireplaces at [haddonstone.com](http://haddonstone.com) or, to find out more, call **01604 770 711**.





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Benefit from the breadth of knowledge, advice, experience and guidance that our regular experts share with us every issue! With their help you can refresh your interiors and create stylish and classic decorating schemes. We'll also ensure that your outside space is just as beautiful with the latest gardening news.

## Antiques & Vintage



### MARGARET POWLING

is one of Britain's best-loved antiques experts. She began collecting as a child and has a life-long love of fine china, beautiful books and historic homes. Her

column combines practical tips with the best advice from specialists at auction houses nationwide.

## Homes & Renovating



### KATE FAULKNER

is famous for her honest and direct approach to renovating and property buying. Drawing from her own experiences on the property ladder,

she will help you care for your period house from making an offer to renovating, moving and selling.

## Gardens & Special Offers



### SARAH RAVEN

is the queen bee of the British gardening scene. She has been running cooking, flower arranging, growing and gardening classes at her East Sussex

farm since 1999. Every month she will reveal her top planting advice and share a fantastic offer.

BRITAIN'S HERITAGE **Glaze over**

LUST FOR LUSTRE

### Collectables

Margaret Powling discovers precious metals as she explores the history behind lustreware

**I**nteriors specialists. Consider the glaze of lustre, otherwise known as lustreware, the glaze that produces a shimmering effect on the surface of pottery. It was first used in the 18th century and is now a highly sought-after collectable. Margaret Powling, an expert in the field, explains the history and value of lustreware. She notes that lustreware was first developed in the 18th century by a French potter named Jean-Baptiste D'Arès. He created a glaze that would shimmer like metal. This was achieved by using a mixture of metal salts and a special firing process. The result was a glaze that would shimmer like metal. This was achieved by using a mixture of metal salts and a special firing process. The result was a glaze that would shimmer like metal.



**THINK PINK** It is a shame that lustreware is not as well known as it should be. It is a beautiful and valuable material. Margaret Powling, an expert in the field, explains the history and value of lustreware. She notes that lustreware was first developed in the 18th century by a French potter named Jean-Baptiste D'Arès. He created a glaze that would shimmer like metal. This was achieved by using a mixture of metal salts and a special firing process. The result was a glaze that would shimmer like metal.

LAST WORD Bricks & mortar



### KATE FAULKNER LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

Your property expert explains how to make a period home eco-friendly

**I** have been a period house owner for many years. I have learned a lot about the history and value of period homes. I have also learned a lot about the importance of making a period home eco-friendly. This is a topic that is becoming increasingly important. Margaret Powling, an expert in the field, explains the history and value of period homes. She notes that period homes were first developed in the 18th century by a French potter named Jean-Baptiste D'Arès. He created a glaze that would shimmer like metal. This was achieved by using a mixture of metal salts and a special firing process. The result was a glaze that would shimmer like metal.

**Further reading** Margaret Powling's book 'The History of Lustreware' is a must-read for anyone interested in the history and value of lustreware.

**Kate Faulkner** is a property expert and author of the book 'The Property Ladder'.

OUTDOOR IDEAS **Perfect produce**



### GARDEN GOSSIP Sarah Raven

The queen bee of the British gardening scene reveals her planting advice for the month and shares a fantastic offer with you

**I** love March. It is a beautiful time of year. The weather is just what you need. It is a time when you can start to think about the future of your garden. Sarah Raven, an expert in the field, explains the history and value of period homes. She notes that period homes were first developed in the 18th century by a French potter named Jean-Baptiste D'Arès. He created a glaze that would shimmer like metal. This was achieved by using a mixture of metal salts and a special firing process. The result was a glaze that would shimmer like metal.

**Further reading** Sarah Raven's book 'The Garden Gossip' is a must-read for anyone interested in the history and value of period homes.

**Sarah Raven** is a gardening expert and author of the book 'The Garden Gossip'.

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Little Greene Paint Company: 0845 880 5855  
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Richmond Oak: 020 3239 3393

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Barnes of Ashburton: 01364 653 613  
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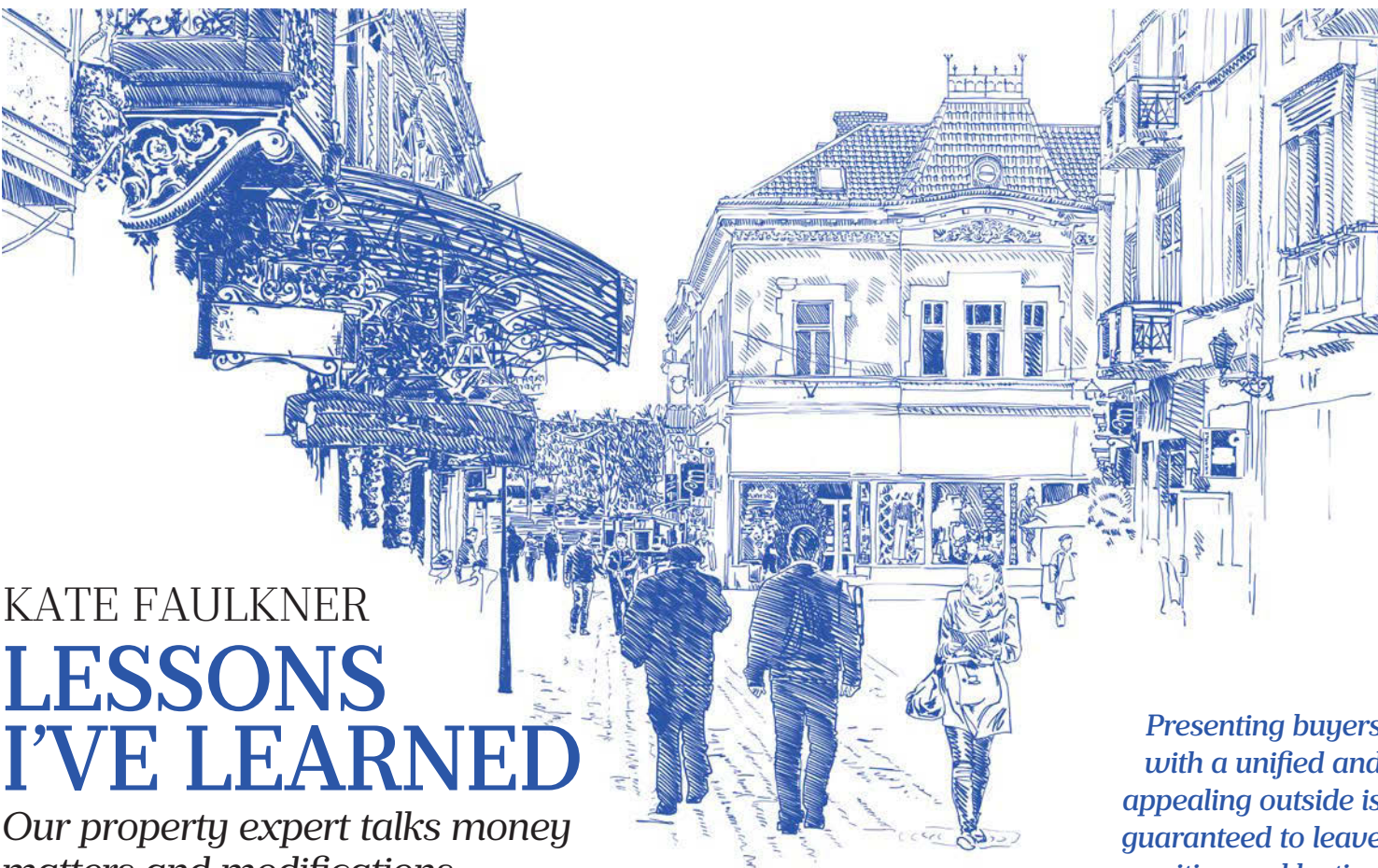
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## KATE FAULKNER LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

*Our property expert talks money matters and modifications*

Edited by **JESSICA PANTON**

*Presenting buyers with a unified and appealing outside is guaranteed to leave a positive and lasting impression*



Property projects can be a trying and tricky process, particularly for owners of older buildings who don't want to compromise on the value and character of their homes. Period houses were built to suit the time and the materials available during that era, so it can be hard to establish whether modernising a pre-war home will have a detrimental effect on its value or increase it. Even for listed properties, making changes depends entirely on what your local authority will allow, rather than the updates you'd like to make to improve or maintain its value.

There are some elements of a period property which will benefit from modification, such as the heating and wiring, as this will improve the performance of the home without reducing its historical authenticity. Making a large fireplace operational and opting for period-style radiators are also actions you can take which will keep a house up-to-date in terms of technology, while maintaining its classic feel. There is greater flexibility when it comes to bathrooms and kitchens, as

a cooking space with all the gadgets is a popular requirement for many current buyers, while in the bathroom, as long as the shower is fully functional, you can choose to have a contemporary or classic scheme. When it comes to decorating, there is far more scope to make changes as the colour combinations in your abode won't effect how it runs, but before you start splashing the paint around, decide whether you want to fully embrace classic period features, or create a completely modernised home, as décor that lies somewhere in between these two extremes can be more difficult to market.

If you're rearranging your house's structure, perhaps to create an open-plan living space, be careful about reducing the number of rooms, as you can end up losing more value than you first anticipated when it comes to selling, particularly if bedrooms have been sacrificed. Or, if you'd like to retain some traditional features, make sure the exterior looks original and authentic, including the roof, windows, guttering, drainage and front door, as presenting buyers with a unified and appealing outside is guaranteed to leave a positive and lasting impression. You should

also ensure any extensions look as though they are a natural part of the building, as this will harmonise your property's appearance. I've seen numerous country homes with large, concrete garages juxtaposing beautiful period architecture, or solar panels on the roof which end up bowing in the middle because they weren't properly strengthened. Before you carry out any major structural changes, hire a local agent or a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to take a look around your estate, so that they can evaluate the potential impact on your home's value and its future stability and saleability.

How changes effect your home financially also depends on the location and surrounding amenities. Generally, if you live in a rural area, people are looking to buy a period residence with all the original features. In urban regions, such as London, you can retain the value of the property by just keeping the original façade and a few fixtures. Whatever the age of your abode, make sure you have consulted the experts on the changes you're planning to make, so you can rest assured that any potential modifications won't harm your home's value.

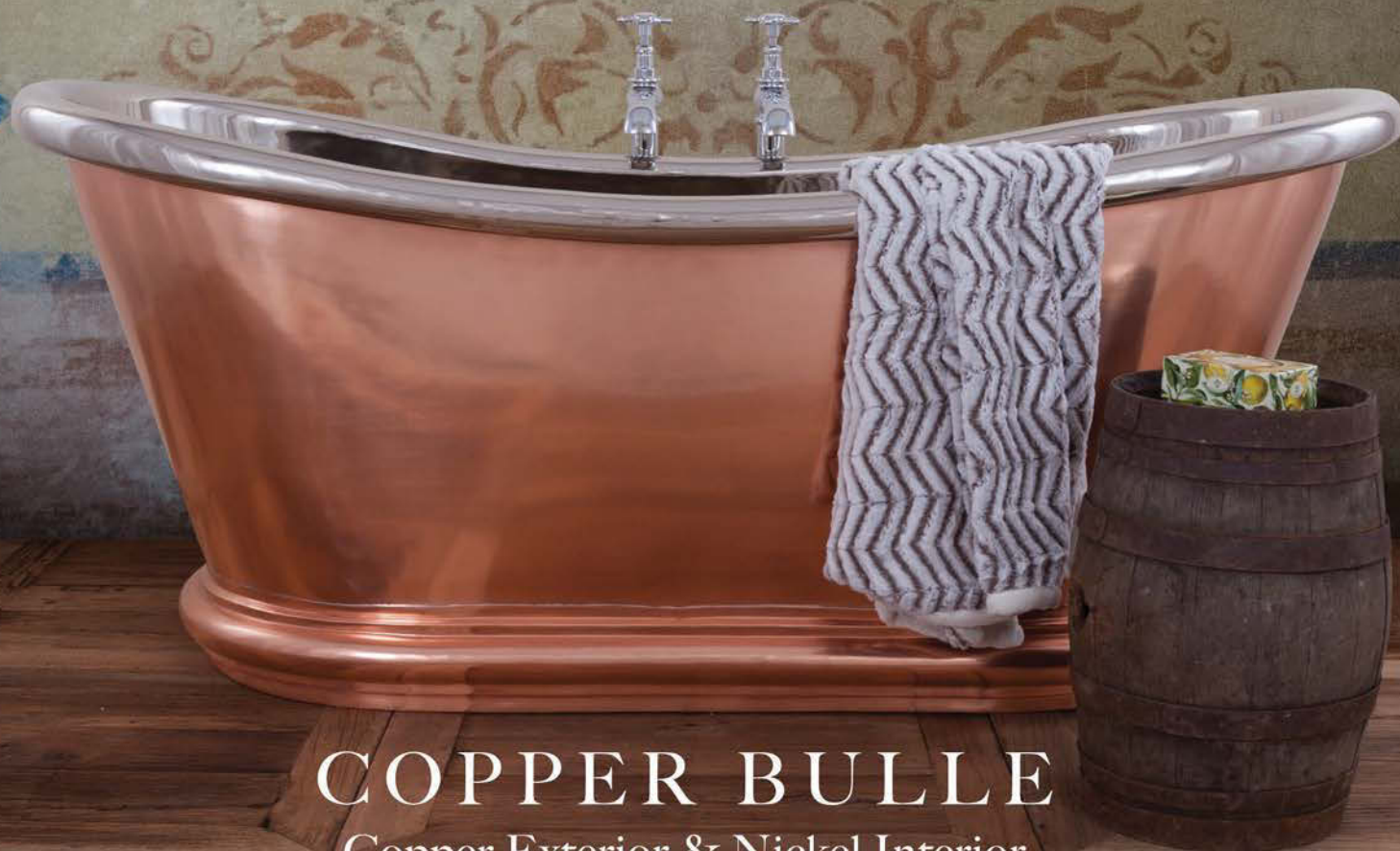
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Kate is one of the UK's leading residential property experts. She writes *Which?* Property books and regularly appears on the BBC and ITV news as well as Radio 4 and 5live. Find out more at [propertychecklists.co.uk](http://propertychecklists.co.uk)



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